

BADGER STATE

# Smoke Signals

For Radio Amateurs • By Radio Amateurs

Published Monthly Since 1969 • Our 23rd Year • Single Copy: \$1.25

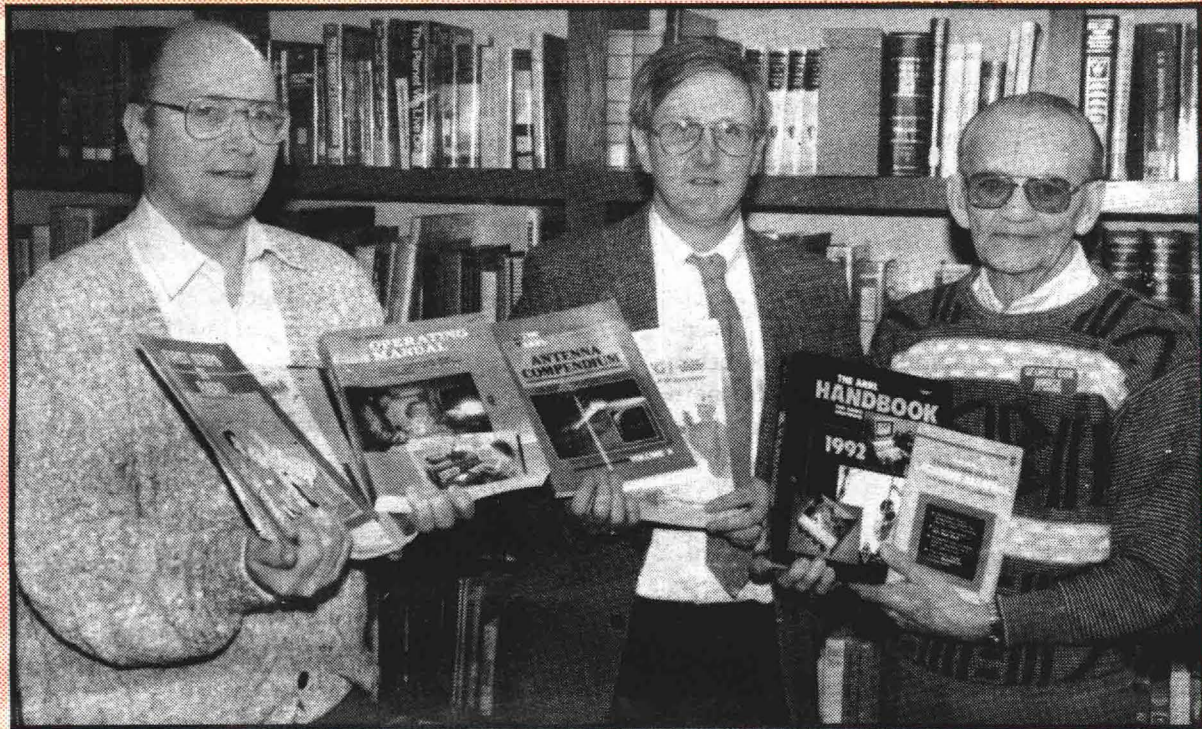
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Vol. 23 No. 4 - 268th Consecutive Monthly Issue - Baraboo, Wisconsin - April 1992

## Mancorad Radio Club Donates ARRL Books to Manitowoc and Two Rivers Libraries



The Mancorad Radio Club recently donated a set of Amateur Radio books, published by the American Radio Relay League, to public libraries in Manitowoc and Two Rivers. The book sets, at \$120.00 per set, were given to the libraries in memory of John Christensen, W9TVA. A third set was purchased for use by club members. Pictured above are, left to right, John Glaeser, WB9ESM, George Cox, N9BCX, and Martin Liddy of the Two Rivers Library.

- Photo by Dennis Hernet/Herald-Times

## 216-220 MHz Proposal Not Currently in Danger

*Editor's note: In last month's issue of Badger State Smoke Signals, we published a story from Westlink Report on our front page telling of the FCC's approval of an interactive television service. That service is expected to operate between 216 and 220 MHz. The American Radio Relay League has petitioned the FCC for Amateur Radio access to the same spectrum, on a secondary basis, for fixed station packet radio link operation. The last sentence of the Westlink Report story read, "Look for the Commission to now kill the ARRL's request for special, fixed-station assignments in the 216-220 MHz band." It appears that that remark was opinion, not fact. Walt Altus, AA9AW, of Onalaska, sent BSSS the February, 1992 issue of 220 Notes, which published the following story.*

The death of the ARRL petition is "absolutely NOT true, responds ARRL Legal Counsel Chris Imlay, N3AKD. In a telephone interview with 220

Notes, Chris made it clear that the ARRL's engineering filing on the matter not only says there is no problem, but shows how and why there should be no problem. Quoting Chris now: 'There are no technical or legal reasons for the Commission to drop the 216-220 MHz ham petition. And there is no basis for that statement in the Amateur Radio press.'

"As reported in our last issue, the 216-220 MHz Docket is moving right along, and the ARRL expects a positive result on that matter in the very near future.

"An interesting aside on TV Answer, which is now called IVDS: The Commissioners felt 'muscle' or pressured by the high-powered legal talent brought in by TV Answer to make this 'service' a reality. Especially chafing is the fact that absolutely no market for this 'service' exists as yet, and as it is presently conceived there is considerable skepticism, including among members of the Commission, as to whether there ever will be any. Considering earlier discussions of TV Answer in 220 Notes, this may bode well for Amateur Radio's future in the 216-220 MHz spectrum." □

## Amateur Transmitter Hunters Help Nab Thieves

Law enforcement officers credited the transmitter-hunting skills of four Mississippi gulf coast amateurs with the apprehension of seven people and the recovery of \$10,000 in radios stolen from a Pascagoula, Mississippi electronics dealership.

The operation began on the night of November 17, when a security guard at Pascagoula's Ingalls Shipbuilding reported hearing unauthorized radio transmissions on a plant two-way frequency. Police, already investigating the theft of the communications gear only hours earlier from Martin Communications and Electronics, felt the two incidents were connected, said Pascagoula Police Captain Wayne McCarty, but they lacked the equipment or expertise to track the signals. So, they contacted Chuck Bardsley, KE5TL, of Gautier, to enlist the aid of local hams.

"I got a call from Chuck asking me to go on a 'real' T-hunt," said Gary Fender, W6SZX, of Escatawpa. "The Moss Point Police Department and the Naval Investigative Service needed help in locating the thieves. They were using the transceivers to taunt the police and interrupt other services around 153 MHz."

That night, Bardsley and Fender gathered their DF gear and linked up with Fred Wolf, KE5SJ, of Gautier, and Ray Walker, KB5FDW, of Pascagoula. They then met with a Naval Investigative Service agent from a ten-man team from the Moss Point Police Department to lay out a plan to track the thieves.

Please turn to page 4, column 3

## Wisconsin QSO Party Entry Address Clarification

In our February issue, we published the rules and an entry form for the Wisconsin QSO Party, sponsored by the West Allis Radio Amateur Radio Club. The address for submission of entries is partially *incorrect* in the box on the front page and in the heading above the rules on page 9; we typoed the ZIP code. The address is *correct* as published on the entry form itself. To clarify the address, it is P.O. Box 1072, Milwaukee, WI 53201, *not* 53221. We apologize for any inconvenience the error may have caused. The deadline for submission of entries is April 15, 1992.

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## ELMER



By Rich Regent, K9GDF



# What's Happening

♦ **Swapfests and Other Social Events** ♦ **Club Meetings** ♦ **Amateur Radio Exam Schedules**

Edited by Kenneth A. Ebner, K9EN • 822 Wauona Trail • Portage, WI 53901

## Swapfests and Other Social Events

**SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 1992.** Madison Swapfest & Computer Fair, Dane County Expo Center Forum Bldg, Madison, WI. Admission; \$4.00 in advance or \$5.00 at the door, Tables \$9.00 advance. Reserve early as this is a sell out every year. Table reservations do not include admission price, you must buy separate admission tickets. Contact MARA, Box 8890, Madison, WI 53708-8890. (608) 249-7579. (Also see the ad last issue of BSSS.)

**SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1992.** The Ozaukee Radio Club will sponsor its 14th annual Cedarburg Swapfest, at the Circle-B Recreation Center, Hwy. 60 and Cty. I. Contact ORC Swapfest, 11448 Laguna Dr., Mequon, WI 53092. (414) 242-4995.

**SATURDAY, JULY 18, 1992.** Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club hamfest, at the Chippewa Falls Fairgrounds. Contact: Lis Searing, N9EQR, 1129 McKinley Rd., Eau Claire, WI 54701. (715) 834-1303.

**SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1992.** Lakeshore Hamfest, Manitowoc, WI. Contact MANORAD Radio Club, P.O. Box 204, Manitowoc, WI 54221-0204. (see also ad on back page.)

**SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 1992.** CWRA Swapfest, Stevens Point, WI. Contact Art Wysocki, N9BCA, 3356 April Lane, Stevens Point, WI. (715) 344-2984. (see also ad on back page.)

**SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1992.** South Milwaukee Swapfest, Oak Creek, WI. Contact SMARC, P.O. Box 102, South Milwaukee, WI 53172. (414) 762-3235. (see also ad on back page.)

**SATURDAY, JULY 18, 1992.** Eau Claire Hamfest, at the Fairgrounds Building in Chippewa Falls, WI. Contact: Liz Searing, N9EQR, 1129 McKinley Rd., Eau Claire, WI 54701. (715) 834-1303.

**SEPTEMBER 19-20, 1992.** Peoria Superfest, Peoria, IL. Contact Peoria ARC, P.O. Box 3508, Peoria, IL 61612. (309) 685-6698. (see also ad on back page.)

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1992.** The KMRA 1991 Computer and Ham Radio Swapfest will be held at the Waukesha County Exposition Center, Hwys. J and FT in Waukesha, WI. Contact KMRA Swapfest, P.O. Box 411, Waukesha, WI 53187-0411.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1992.** Fort Wayne, IN Hamfest. Contact AC-ARTS, P.O. Box 10342, Fort Wayne, IN 46851.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 1993.** 21st Annual WARAC MIDWINTER swapfest, Waukesha County Expo Center Forum, Waukesha, WI. Contact WARAC Swapfest, P.O. Box 1072, Milwaukee, WI 53201. Please note this will be on a Sunday next year instead of the previous Saturday dates. (see also ad on back page.)

As a service to our readers, this section of Badger State Smoke Signals is available without charge to list your upcoming Swapfest, Hamfest, dinner, picnic, party or other event of interest to Radio Amateurs in Wisconsin and nearby areas. Send information on your event to Kenneth A. Ebner, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. In addition, space is available at attractive rates on our advertising pages. For information on rates and requirements for our advertising pages, please contact K9ZZ or K9EN.

## Club Meetings



Due to space limitations, we cannot always carry the full listing of Wisconsin and area club meetings. See the March 1992 meetings column for the latest complete listing.

example, if a club meets on the 4th of the month, the material should be sent no later than the 11th of that month. This material is to be sent to the Editor.

### Where to Send It

Address changes and corrections should be sent to Ken Ebner.

Editorial material, photographs, feature articles, display ads, and exchange papers should be sent to Jim Romelfanger.

Inquiries about advertising should be directed to Ken Ebner.

Swapfest information should be sent to Ken Ebner. Swapfest ads should be sent to Jim Romelfanger.

Subscriptions should be sent, with check or money order, to Jim Decker.

### Conditions for Reprinting Material from Badger State Smoke Signals

Permission is hereby granted to reprint articles from *Badger State Smoke Signals*, providing credit is given to the original author, publication in which the article first appeared, and to *Badger State Smoke Signals*. This credit is mandatory, and no material may be printed unless it is given. This newspaper is produced by volunteer Radio Amateurs, and is non-profit. This newspaper is mailed from Portage, WI 53901.

### Editorial Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in editorials, guest editorials, columns, articles, and letters from readers are the opinions of the authors only, and do not, unless otherwise stated, express or imply endorsement by *Badger State Smoke Signals*, or by any other individual or organization.

## Badger State Smoke Signals

### Amateur Radio Education and Information

**CHAIRMAN:** Kenneth A. Ebner, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. Telephone (608) 742-3560.

**EDITOR:** Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ, 412 1/2 Ash Street, Baraboo, WI 53913. Telephone (608) 356-4031.

**TREASURER:** Jim Decker, WB9UQT, P.O. Box 337, Baraboo, WI 53913-0337.

**CONTRIBUTING AUTHOR:** Richard R. Regent, K9GDF, 5003 South 26th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53221.

### Subscriptions

1 year	(12 issues)	\$9.75
2 years	(24 issues)	\$18.00
3 years	(36 issues)	\$26.00

Special club package reduced rates are available. For information, contact Ken Ebner, K9EN.

### When to Send It

The closing date for each issue is the first of the month for the next month's issue. For example, the closing date for the June issue is May 1.

The only exception is for participating clubs. Participating clubs are requested to send their material no later than SEVEN DAYS after the club's meeting. For

## The Test Point



### Amateur Radio Examination Locations and Schedules in the Wisconsin Area

The following are known locations where Amateur Radio license examinations are scheduled in the Badger State area.

April 7, 1992	Houghton, MI
April 11, 1992	Medford, WI
April 11, 1992	Eau Claire, WI
April 11, 1992	Ashland, WI
April 11, 1992	Marinette, WI
April 11, 1992	Cedar Rapids, IA
April 11, 1992	Oak Forest, IL
April 11, 1992	Houghton, MI
April 11, 1992	Bloomington, MN
April 11, 1992	Fergus Falls, MN
April 17, 1992	Clinton, IA
April 18, 1992	Madison, WI
April 18, 1992	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
April 18, 1992	St Paul Park, MN
April 21, 1992	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
May 2, 1992	Ozaukee, WI (BE)
	Ozaukee swapfest
May 4, 1992	Eveleth, MN
May 9, 1992	Manitowoc, WI
May 9, 1992	Marshfield, WI
May 9, 1991	Ames, IA
May 9, 1991	Oak Forest, IL
May 9, 1992	Dixon, IL
May 9, 1992	Bloomington, MN
May 14, 1992	Onalaska, WI
May 16, 1992	Fond Du Lac, WI
May 17, 1992	Des Moines, IA
May 19, 1992	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
May 23, 1992	St Paul Park, MN
June 13, 1992	Dubuque, IA
June 14, 1992	Stevens Point, WI
June 16, 1992	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
July 11, 1992	Marshfield, WI
July 21, 1992	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
August 18, 1992	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
August 22, 1992	Fond Du Lac, WI
September 5, 1992	Dubuque, IA
September 12, 1992	Marshfield, WI
September 15, 1992	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
October 20, 1992	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
November 7, 1992	Menomonie, WI
November 9, 1992	Onalaska, WI
November 14, 1992	Fond Du Lac, WI
November 14, 1992	Marshfield, WI
November 17, 1992	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
November 21, 1992	Dubuque, IA
December 5, 1992	Stevens Point, WI
December 15, 1992	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)

Monthly, First Sat. Racine, WI  
(except January, July & August)  
Monthly, Last Sat. Tomahawk, WI  
(January thru October only)

Monthly, Third Sat. Loves Park, IL

Many Swapfests/Hamfests offer exam sessions. If not shown above contact the sponsoring club in the Swapfest column on page 2.

### GENERAL RULES

#### FOR MOST EXAMINATIONS:

Be sure to check with sponsors in the event there are changes and/or errors in the dates or information given.

Most examinations require filing an FCC Form 610 and advance registration at least 30 days before the exam date. (Some VECs permit walk-ins. Check with sponsor.)

To register, you must first secure a copy of the current FCC Form 610 and fill it out completely (AND CORRECTLY). Get your form from an FCC Field Office, the ARRL or Badger State Smoke Signals. Send a 29¢ SASE if you request one from the ARRL or BSSS. In most cases, forms can also be obtained from the sponsoring group.

ARRL/VEC examinations require a check for \$5.40 payable to "ARRL/VEC".

The FCC now requires applicants to show their original Amateur license to the VEC. A copy of your license must be attached to your FCC form 610. You will also be required to have a photo ID, or other acceptable identification.

Technician class licensees must show proof of testing before March 21, 1987, in order to upgrade to General with a code test only.

MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS' CLUB (MRAC/VEC)

TUESDAY DATES: At 6:30 p.m. at church, 11709 West Cleveland Ave., West Allis, WI. For Additional Information Contact; Jack Krause, W9JK, 1737 N. 116th St., Wauwatosa, WI 53226. (414) 774-6999 or Les Peterson, W9YCV, 9741 W. Howard Ave., Greenfield, WI 53228. (414) 321-4745.

Bring along your original license and two (2) good quality photocopies, plus two forms of identification, such a driver's license, etc. Also required are a pen and \$5.00 for the exam fee. WALK-INS are welcome. To register in advance, use a post card: print the grade of license you are applying for, and your name, address, and telephone number. Send the card to MRAC/VEC, c/o Jack Krause, W9JK, 1737 North 116th Street, Wauwatosa, WI 53226, or to Ed Seruga, KE9JJ, 3840 South 43rd Street #21, Milwaukee, WI 53220. Telephones: (414) 774-6999 or (414) 545-6299.

BADGER EXAMINERS (BE) - MILWAUKEE

Apr. 18 1992.

May 2, 1992. Ozaukee swapfest. (Ozaukee)

Unless otherwise noted, examinations are administered beginning at 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. Nicholas Church basement, 5345 N. Green Bay Ave. (2 1/2 blocks south of Silver Spring), Milwaukee. Walk-ins are welcome. CW waiver forms are available. Please send a request with an SASE prior to taking an exam, so it is ready when attending the session. To register in advance, send a post card with your name, test or tests you wish to take, date you wish to take., your call sign, address and telephone number to Badger Examiners, Gary J. Sharburn, WI9M, 5119 W. Willow Rd., Brown Deer, WI 53223. Telephone (414) 355-0237.

FOND DU LAC - (W5YI-VEC)

Saturdays, May 16, Aug. 22, and Nov. 14, 1992.

The Fond du Lac County VEs will administer exams starting promptly at 1:00 pm, please be on time. Exams are given at the Red Cross Building, 272 N. Main St., Fond du Lac, WI 54935. Please use the back entrance. Talk-in on 147.09+. Walk-ins only, no preregistration is needed. For more info call: Gary Pelletier, KA9QOT (608) 837-3433.

ASHLAND, WI (ARRL/VEC)

April 11, 1992

Exams at Ashland Eye Clinic, 1001 2nd W., Ashland, WI. Contact Dale Ristrom, 1202 Hwy. 77, Pence, WI 54550. (715) 561-2802. (Thanks ARRL/VEC/K9GDF).

MEDFORD, WI

Saturday, April 11, 1992. sponsored by the Taylor County Area ARC. Registration at 8:30 a.m. with testing starting at 9:00 a.m. Held at the multi-purpose building located at the Taylor County Fairgrounds in Medford, WI. Contact Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ, 210 S 4th St, P.O. Box 401, Abbotsford, WI 54405-0401. (715) 223-3996.

MENOMONIE WI - ARRL/VEC

Saturday: Nov. 7, 1992

The Northern Wisconsin Radio Club sponsors exams from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the U. W. Stout Communications Center, 820 South Broadway, Menomonie, WI. Use front entrance of building. Walk-ins are accepted only to extent of available exam materials.

Contact: Jim Ley, NX9F, (715) 235-3998 (H); or (715) 232-1397 (O).

MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN

1992 dates: May 9, Jul. 11, Sep. 12, Nov 14.

Sponsored by the Marshfield Area ARS. Second Saturday every other month, at St. Joseph Hospital, School of Nursing entrance. Room 124. St. Joseph Ave., Marshfield, WI. Walk-ins Wel-

come. Contact Walter Friant, WBOKIN, 2310 Wallonnie Dr., Marshfield, WI 54449.

RACINE, WISCONSIN - ARRL/VEC

Monthly - first Saturday, except January, July, and August.

Exams are given 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Red Cross Building, 4521 Taylor Avenue, Racine. Walk-ins are permitted. Inquiries and registrations should be directed to William Firchow, Jr., NW9P, 1912 27th Street, Kenosha, WI 53140, telephone (414) 658-8390.

TOMAHAWK, WI

Last Saturday of every month. Jan. thru Oct.

Tomahawk Volunteer Examiners (ARRL/VEC). Tomahawk, WI. No preregistration required, but appointment would be appreciated. Registration at 8:30 a.m. and testings starts at 9:00 a.m. For location or other information, inquire on 145.43 MHz. repeater or contact: Greg Garner, WA9W, 4088 Highway 51, Harshaw, WI 54529. Telephone (715) 453-7096.

EAU CLAIRE, WI (W5YI/VEC)

Saturday, April 11, 1992

9 a.m. to noon at St. Olaf's Parish Church. School, 2407 North Lane, on Eau Claire's north side near the airport. FCC form 610s will be supplied at exam site. Walk-ins OK. Danish rolls and coffee available.

Exams will also be given at the ECARs Hamfest on July 17, Friday evening from 7 to 9 p.m. and on the Hamfest day itself, July 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Contact Carl F. Searing, 1129 McKinley Rd., Eau Claire, WI 54703-2219, (715) 834-1303.

MADISON, WI - ARRL/VEC

Apr. 18, 1992.

All exams will be held in the Labor Temple at 1610 South Park St., Madison, WI.

Due to scheduling problems with the Labor Temple in Madison, WI the exams must be changed from the second Saturday of the month to the third.

Contact: Carl Berliot, (608) 221-2022.

STEVENS POINT, WI - ARRL/VEC

June 14 and December 5, 1992

Contact: Joe Larson, (715) 344-1182

APPLETON, WI - ARRL/VEC

Contact: Larry Siebers, (414) 788-3823

MARINETTE, WI (ARRL/VEC)

April 11, 1992

Contact: Terry Dobrzanski, (715) 732-2496.

ONALASKA, WI

May 14 and November 9, 1992

Contact: Rick Williams, KV9U, 534 Troy St., Onalaska, WI 54650. (608) 783-8028.

DUBUQUE, IOWA - ARRL/VEC

1992 examination dates: June 13, September 5, and November 21. The Great River ARC VEs are now field-stocked with examinations, which means that retests can be given immediately. Exams are held at 9 a.m. at the Central Fire Station, 9th and Central, Dubuque. Use the basement entrance on 9th Street. Talk-ins are on 147.84/24, 147.63/03, and 146.295/895 repeaters. Contact Mike Jozefowicz, NSOU, 2735 Hockory Hill, Dubuque, Iowa 52001, (319) 582-8563. (Thanks Art Evans KA9KLZ)

LOVES PARK, IL

Third Saturday of every month. Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners (DeVry VEC). Held at North Suburban District Library, 6340 North Second St. (Hwy. 251), Loves Park, IL. Contact: Paul K. Dean, WB9HCZ, (815) 987-6754.

The following out of state exam information is presented courtesy of the ARRL/VEC.

EASTERN IOWA

04/11/92, Cedar Rapids

319-377-7629, Tom Heifner

04/17/92, Clinton

319-242-1281, James N Berkey

05/09/92, Ames

515-292-4504, FS Hird

05/17/92, Des Moines

515-967-3890, Jim Snapp

NORTHERN ILLINOIS

04/11/92, Oak Forest

05/09/92, Oak Forest

312-247-0650, William Koltz

05/09/92, Dixon

815-284-6380, Charles W Randall

UPPER MICHIGAN

04/07/92, Houghton

04/11/92, Houghton

906-337-2542, George R Thurner

MINNESOTA

04/11/92, Bloomington

05/09/92, Bloomington

612-888-6187, Arthur Jensen

04/11/92, Fergus Falls

218-739-9022, Thomas Shubitz

04/18/92, St Paul Park

05/23/92, St Paul Park

612-459-8678, David Harrell

05/04/92, Eveleth

218-263-4160, Gregg Mihelich

If you plan on taking any of the exams, it is suggested that you contact the sponsoring organization as the date nears to find if there have been any changes in dates or locations.

This section of Badger State Smoke Signals is available to publicize your Volunteer Examiner Amateur Radio license examination schedules. Please send us your schedules of dates, times, and locations that you will be conducting examinations and we will include the information here. Be sure to include contact address and any other necessary requirements. Information should be sent to K9EN at the address shown on page 2.



# SSB

SELL SWAP BUY

OUR WANT ADS GET RESULTS

WANTED: Basket case Heathkit keyer, Model 1410. Only need paddle and case portion. Jim Cronn, W2GC, 301 Hickory Stick Court, Sun City Center, FL 33573. (813) 634-9735.

WANTED: Icom HM10 Mic., Atlas DD6C digital display, 6M mobile rig. A. Campo, N9MMV, 816 W. Knapp St., Rice Lake, WI 54868 (715) 234-4774.

FOR SALE: HW101 with power supply and cw filter, (new never on the air.), Hallicrafter TO keyer model HA-1. A. Campo, N9MMV, 816 W. Knapp St., Rice Lake, WI 54868 (715) 234-4774.

FOR SALE: Ancient Helicopter. Amazing toy flies on its own power! Plans \$1.00 ppd. Dr. Tom King, WF9I, 4817 Sierra Dr., Eau Claire, WI 54701.

FOR SALE: Colorful United States Stamps. 100 all different. \$1.00 postpaid. Richard Regent, K9GDF, 5003 South 26th St., Milwaukee, WI 53221.

WANTED: Old or unusual telegraph keys and bugs. Contact Jerry Scherkenbach at call book address, telephone (414) 481-8831 or Packet radio N9AW @ WB9TYT.

What do you get when you play a country and western record backward?

You get back your wife, your pickup, your dog, and you sober up.

I hear that an enterprising travel agency is prepared to cash in on a post Desert Storm revival of Middle East tourism by offering a Persian Gulf travel package. The highlight will be unlimited admission to Iraq's newly constructed 270,000-hole golf course.

A bank manager saw a new employee diligently counting out \$100 bills. "You look like an industrious young man," he said. "Where did you receive your business education?"

"Yale," the young man replied. "Excellent," the manager said. "And what's your name?" "Yim Yohnson."



## Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

Rob Hummel, WA9ZTY, Secretary • 202 Midvale Drive • Marshall, WI 53559

### Section Manager's Notes



Richard R. Regent, K9GDF  
5003 South 26th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53221

Wisconsin Amateur Contest Organization is now ARRL affiliated.

May 2nd, the Ozaukee RC League Sanctioned Swapfest will be at the Cedarburg Circle-B Recreation Center, Highway 60 and County I. Stop by and say hi to me at the League booth near the stage. Exams will be given by Badger Examiners.

May 9th is the Lakeshore Hamfest, and exams will be held at the Manitowoc County Expo Center sponsored by the Mancorad RC.

Other exams: May 2nd Racine NW9P, May 9th Marshfield WB0KIN, May 16th Fond Du Lac KA9QOT, May 19th Milwaukee W9JK or W9YCV.

Four Lakes RC member K9APV of Verona is new VHF Awards Manager.

Rock River RC will have their spring fox hunt on May 5th.

K9FHI, our Assistant Section Manager, and KA9JDE gave excellent program on traffic handling with description of using various modes; maybe your club could talk them into giving this program at one of your meetings.

West Allis RAC will have program on computer

### Wisconsin Nets

Net	WNA	Freq.	UTC	CST	Mgr.
BWN	Yes	3984	1200	0600	W9AYK
BEN	Yes	3985	1800	1200	WB9ESM
WSBN	Yes	3985	2330	1730	K9UTQ
WNN	Yes	3723	0000	1800	KA9FVX
WSSN	Yes	3645	0030	1830	N9BDL
WIN/E	Yes	3662	0100	1900	WB9ICH
WIN/L	Yes	3662	0400	2200	W9NGP
NWTN	Yes	34/94	0030	1830	NS9Q
(Rhinelander area)					
RCRA	No	01/61	0030	1830	KA9OMC
(Mondays CST) (Menomonie Area)					
Gr. Bay	No	72/12	0245	2045	WB9NRK
(Green Bay Area)					
ARES	No	4.65/5.25	0200	2000	
(South East/South Central Wisconsin)					
RACES	No	3993.5	1400	0800	WA9OAY
(LSB Sunday)					

control of receivers at their May 12th meeting.

Fox Cities ARC selected KD9IA as their Ham of the Year.

WB9BBI of Appleton has a RTTY net on 146.70 MHz, Tuesday nights at 7.

Madison Area Repeater Association may consider adding a digital-voice recorder to their 147.15 MHz equipment and have new officers: Pres. KB9AQQ, V. Pres. KA9QOT, Sec. N9DRA, Treas. WB9YON.

Sorry to report KB9ASH is Silent Key. Thought of the month: *Other people's tools work only in other people's gardens.* □

### Hams Help Catch Thieves

Continued from front page

"Each T-hunter was to be accompanied by an armed detective carrying 800-MHz frequency-hopping communications gear," Fender said. "There was concern that the thieves would see or hear us and quit transmitting. The 800-MHz gear cannot be understood on a scanner."

The hams took little time in tracking the telltale signals to a Moss Point neighborhood. But, the transmissions stopped, and each monitoring vehicle took up a hiding position in the suspected area.

"Unlike our regular T-hunts where the hidden transmitter has to hide and be inconspicuous," Fender said, "this time the hunters had to hide as well. Driving around with rooftop-mounted quads and yagis wasn't possible."

When there were still no further transmissions, police stirred up some activity by having a fire engine pass through the area with siren blaring. That did the trick. "The transmissions were very short, but with much patience we were able to get bearings. The bearings were plotted, and a search warrant obtained, and the police prepared to go in."

For safety reasons, the amateurs weren't allowed to accompany the officers when they rushed the suspected residence. But, they were soon to see the fruits of their labors.

Police found part of the stolen equipment in the house and recovered the balance in a nearby wooded area, Captain McCarty said. Four adults and a juvenile were arrested immediately, and two more adults were arrested the next day. The seven, all Moss Point residents, were charged with commercial burglary or receiving stolen goods. All except the juvenile were jailed.

The operation was well documented in several articles in the *Mississippi Press* newspaper, each of which detailed the invaluable role of the hams.

Said Fender, "Seeing those thieves locked up was rewarding, but the best part was when the police team affectionately dubbed us the 'snoop squad.'"

- By Hank Downey, K5QNE, in *The ARRL Letter*, 2/24/92, via the *Magnolia Report*

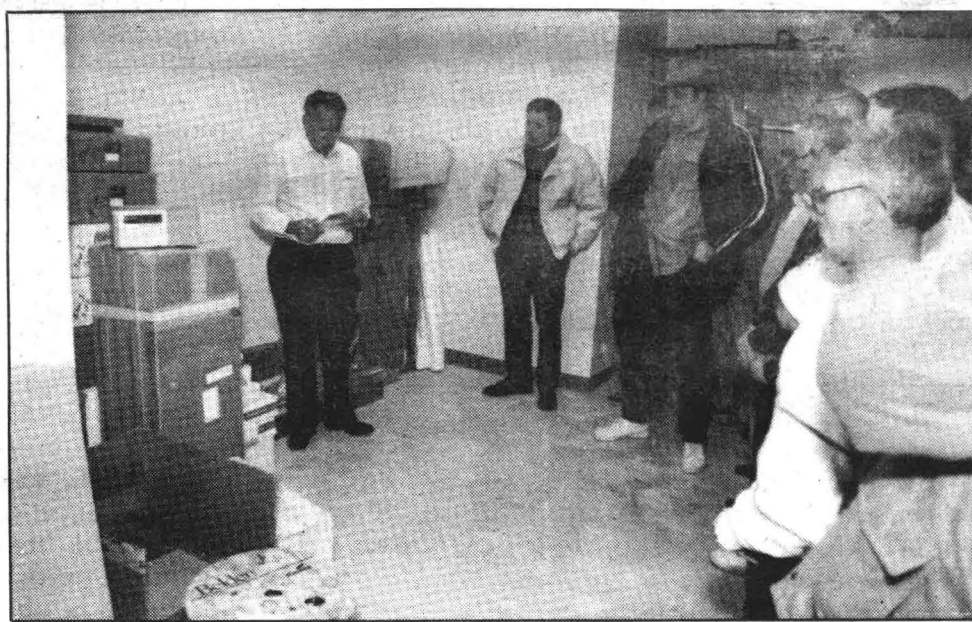
### With New Gear and New EOC, Ozaukee ARES Members Will be Ready to Serve



The Ozaukee County Amateur Radio Emergency Service ARES (OZARES) held its first ever face-to-face meeting in the brand-spanking new Ozaukee County Justice Center in Port Washington on January 23rd. Of the 33 registered OZARES members, 23 attended, shown in the photo at left.

The group was given a tour of the facilities (which are still in the final phases of construction), and were greeted by the Emergency Government director for Ozaukee County, Bill Stolte.

The Ozaukee County ARES Emergency Coordinator, Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR (at the right side of the photo at left), showed off a stack of boxes containing several thousand dollars worth of ham radio equipment which will ultimately



be installed in the Emergency Operation Center's communications center (in photo at right). He also described the rooftop antenna farm and the planning that will be required to get it properly installed.

Special thanks go to County Board member Sandy Wirth, WB9BTN, who helped make it happen.

When the installation is complete, the Ozaukee ARES group will be well-prepared to serve their community during times of need.

- Story and photos by John Leekley/WB9SMM  
Wisconsin Section Emergency Coordinator

### Attention: Participating Clubs, Writers, Other Contributors

Here is a list of the 1992 dates that each issue of *Badger State Smoke Signals* must be at the printing plant. Remember that, in order to have each issue completed in time to meet our printer's schedule, the issue must be COMPLETED two or three days before these dates:

ISSUE	DUE AT PRINTER
May	April 25
June	May 23
July	June 27

August  
September  
October  
November  
December

July 25  
August 22  
September 26  
October 24  
November 21

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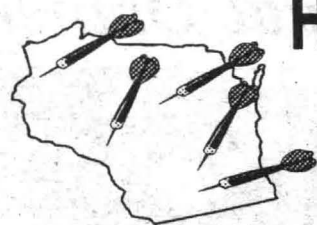
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## HERE and THERE

### Commission Responds to Comments on Code-Free Amateur License

The FCC has denied requests that it reconsider the establishment of a code-free Technician class license. Objections to the Commission's order of December 13, 1990, had sought special call signs for such licensees and privileges different from those granted by the order. Some disputed the need for a code-free license in the Amateur Service. The Commission denied the requests in part by saying that none of them met the standards for petitions for reconsideration and none presented any facts or raised any issues not already considered in the order.

The Commission said once again that a sixth class of license (as requested by some writers) would not have been possible under the Commission's current computer system. They noted again that distinctive call signs for Technicians with code credit would be unfair, forcing such licensees to sign calls longer than their no-code counterparts.

The Commission concluded its Order by addressing their perceived need for a code-free license, saying the comments received in response to the creation of such a license "clearly confirmed that the amateur community is undergoing a dramatic shift in sentiment concerning the value of Morse code as an entry level license requirement. We also found," FCC said, "that for the amateur service to achieve its purposes, the participation of as many qualified persons as possible who desire to pursue those purposes is needed."

- The ARRL Letter, 3/11/92

### Supreme Court Refuses to Hear Appeal of "Indecency" Ruling

The United States Supreme Court has refused to hear an appeal of a decision of a United States Court of Appeals which held unconstitutional an around-the-clock ban on indecent broadcasts. The high court let stand a May 17, 1991 decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit which held that broadcast material which is indecent but not obscene is protected by the First Amendment, and any restrictions on such broadcasts must be narrowly drawn. The appeals court instructed the FCC to determine the times at which indecent material may be broadcast. In doing so, the FCC must determine the times when there is a reasonable risk that children, who may properly be protected by the government from such broadcasts, are in the broadcast audience.

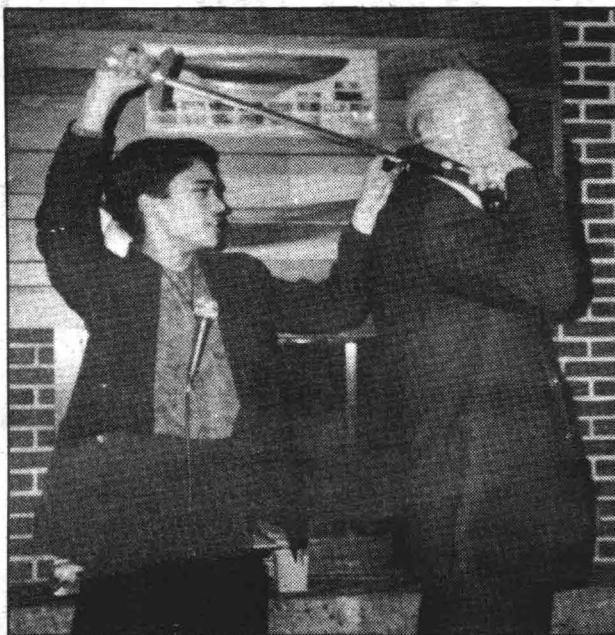
The decision of a three-judge appeals court panel unanimously concluded that a 24-hour-per-day FCC ban on indecent broadcasts, even though mandated by Congress, was unconstitutional. The Court of Appeals had earlier determined that the FCC must carve out a "safe harbor" for such broadcasts, but recognized that even constitutionally protected speech can have a "strong negative impact on children." Thus, limitations on indecent broadcasts can be imposed, if carefully and narrowly crafted.

The FCC was referred to that holding for further action. Obscene broadcasts are not protected and may be prohibited entirely.

FCC has continued to impose fines on broadcast stations for indecent broadcasts made during the times of day in which children are clearly in the audience.

The implications of the court rulings for Amateur Radio are unclear at present, though FCC

## Komistra-Kebab



A magician prepares to push a sword through the neck of Bill Komistra, K9OVZ, at the Racine Area Ham Dinner on February 8, 1992. Bill was named Ham of the Year. Read more on page 6.

### Baraboo Innovator, Former Ham, Dies



James W. Seymour, 64, of Baraboo, died on February 10, 1992. He was not a radio amateur at the time of his death, but he had held the call sign W9QOP in the 1950s. Jim was the manager and vice president of Soiltest, Inc.'s Baraboo manufacturing plant, which was closed by a British firm which bought the company about eight years ago.

Jim's business began with manufacturing refraction seismographs in his garage. (Shallow-depth refraction seismographs are used by geologists and construction firms to determine the hardness and thickness of subsurface materials.) Jim developed a tamper, which is used to create a shock wave which is read by the seismograph; other manufacturers used a sledge hammer and a striker plate. The tamper required much less energy to create the necessary shock wave. A refraction seismic survey was performed on one of the Apollo lunar landings where a modified version of Jim's tamper was used for that survey, as seen in the NASA photo above.

Soiltest worked closely with NASA to develop the lunar seismic equipment.

Jim is survived by his wife, Betty, of Baraboo, and four children. He was an honorary member of the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club of Baraboo.

has previously stated that its policies regarding broadcast indecency are equally applicable to Amateur Radio, noting similarities between the two services. FCC Chairman Alfred E. Sikes has recently stated that it is FCC's intention to enforce its rules concerning indecent broadcasts to the

## Wanted: Tech or Higher CW Operators Who Are Rail Fans

By Sid Vaughan, NØDJD  
P.O. Box 291, Mt. Vernon, IA 52314

Various railroad museums and tourist railroads welcome amateur radio operators who can stage a simulation of old fashioned land line telegraph communications. Hams who enjoy CW can be part of these simulations.

I have made equipment that plugs into the mike jack of a 2 meter transceiver, allowing a keyer to transmit CW tone signals over the 2 meter FM. I also have built a tone-operated relay that will run an old fashioned telegraph instrument from the CW signals.

Using these gadgets, a ham operator may transmit messages, monitoring by earphone, while the old fashioned telegraph instrument clicks. To the public, it is a realistic simulation of land line telegraph communications used in bygone years by railroads. Of course the CW code is different from that used on telegraph wires, but the public is not aware of that. (No one but an old RR telegrapher could tell the difference.)

The transmitter is turned on by a vox circuit when the keyer is operated. A small earphone carries the signal being transmitted and received, for the radio operator to monitor.

There is nothing new to learn for a CW operator to take part in one of these demonstrations. And I have all the equipment for two stations so no one need bring any gear. The reason for using 2 meters is because equipment and antennas are plentiful, small, and easy to set up.

I, along with other hams, do this several times each summer at Mid Continent Ry. Museum in North Freedom, Wis. I also put on these demonstrations at various other railroad museums from time to time in Wisconsin and Iowa.

I am always on the lookout for more hams who would like to work CW at this kind of event. And for those who are railfans, this really helps re-live a vital part of old time railroading - the role of the telegraph operator in an old depot.

Sometimes we get to send a train order. Sometimes we let the public send a free "telegram" (radio gram) to anywhere in the U.S., and route 'em to hams working from home who relay into traffic nets. At other times we just operate two stations at the same event, sending "telegrams" from one station to the other.

Please send me a note if you want to be on my list of ham-operators to be notified of future events. 73.

extent permitted by law.

ARRL President George S. Wilson III, W4-OYI, was scheduled to be in Washington on March 13 to discuss the matter with FCC commissioners and bureau chiefs, and to urge increased enforcement efforts to resolve what many amateurs believe is a serious problem.

- The ARRL Letter, 3/11/92

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# Members of Four Racine Area Clubs Gather for Annual Dinner



Racine's Ham of the Year, Bill Komistra, W9OVZ, at left, accepts his plaque from Bob Jensen, W0WLN.



The winners of the 1991 Fox Hunt, Bonnie Haney (left), WB9ZKX, and her husband Gene, WB9ZKY (center), accept the fox hunt trophy from Racine Megacycle Club President Brian Roosa, WD9FRH.

Radio amateurs in Racine area had their annual get-together dinner and program on February 8, 1992. About 65 hams with spouses participated. The dinner is a very popular annual event. Among those attending were members of the Racine Megacycle Club, the Lakeshore Repeater Association, the Quarter Century Wireless Association/South East Wisconsin Chapter 162, and the Lighthouse Chapter of the 10-10 International Net, Inc.

For the last several years the dinner has been at the Racine Yacht Club, and this year was no exception. The chairman was again the well-known lady ham teacher in Racine, Cheryl Miller, WS9P, who put together an excellent program.

Among several happenings was the important announcement of the Ham of the Year. Bob Jensen, W0WLN, one of the three last winners chose this year's winner. Bob announced the recipient, and mentioned some of his many accomplishments. The award, a plaque, went to the very active ham, Bill Komistra, W9OVZ. Bill is very active in Amateur Radio, including always being at the Field Days where he has been running the all-important generator, and helping out in other activities wherever he can. He is also active in the Big Brothers program.

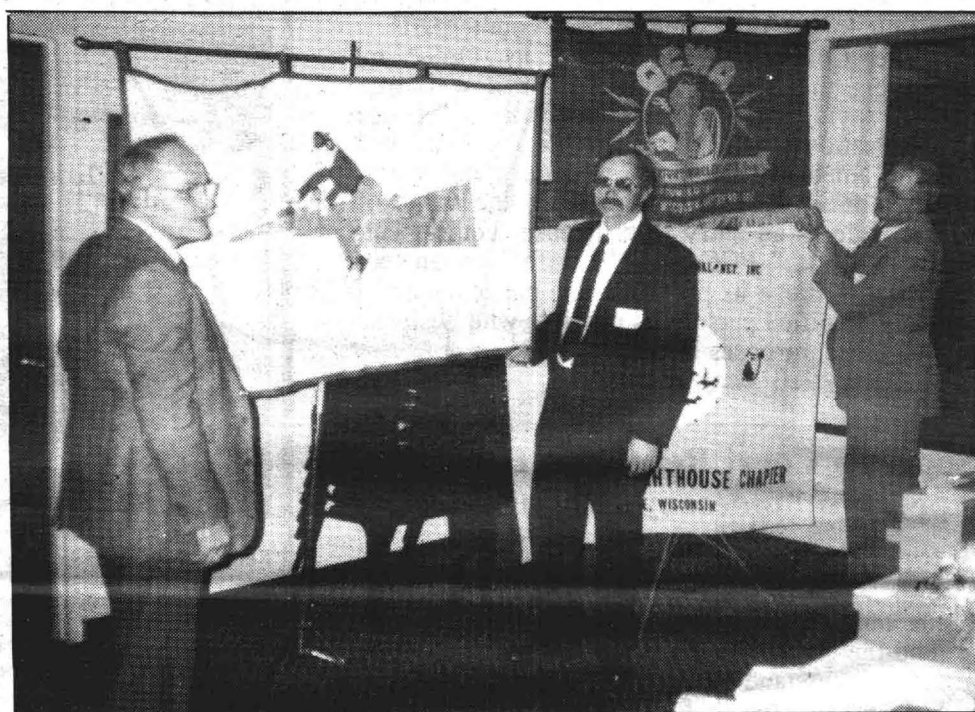
The toastmaster was the well-known Dave Voss, WB9USI.

The winners of the very popular Fox Hunt, run by Dan Miller, KA9OIL, were also recognized. They were the unbeatable husband and wife team Gene Haney, WB9ZKY, and Bonnie, WB9ZKX.

A very popular part of the program was the young magician from New Berlin, Sachim Pawar, who put on a short but effective and amazing show.

Toward the end, the door prizes from firms around the Racine area were raffled off. Cheryl, WS9P, had collected a great amount of "loot" with help of many participating hams, so most everyone could take something home. A few of the many helpers collecting door prizes were Brian Roosa, WD9FRH; Gary Hardt, N9MGH; Rev. Jim McChesney, WA0PFV; and Bruce Zabler, K9RRS.

Steve Bellgraph, K9ZL, had put together some interesting place mats with ham test questions from 1943 which very few today could solve. Steve is one of the few who can.



Banners, flags and logos of the four clubs taking part in the dinner were displayed. Shown with the display are Brian Roosa, WD9FRH (left), Dave Geschke, WB9ZIO (center), and Bob Jensen, W0WLN.

- Photos courtesy Arne Moxness/KA9ZPY

Many, including myself, are already looking forward to next year's event.

- Arne Moxness, KA9ZPY, Secretary  
Racine Megacycle Club

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## League Petitions FCC to Bring Novice Exams Under Volunteer Examiner Program

The American Radio Relay League has filed with the Federal Communications Commission a Petition for Rule Making to require that all Novice class Amateur Radio license examinations be administered under the current Volunteer Examiner program.

The petition suggests that such a requirement would provide smoother and quicker processing of new Novice licenses, and would help to maintain the integrity of the examination process for the entire range of amateur examinations from Novice through Amateur Extra class.

The Novice examination, presently administered by two General class or higher licensees who are not necessarily certified volunteer examiners, was not included in the original Volunteer Examiner program begun in 1984 to avoid overburdening the new program, and because a volunteer examiner system for Novice examinations already was in place.

- ARRL Bulletin 24, 2/27/92

MOVING? PLEASE SEND YOUR NEW ADDRESS TO K9EN. HIS ADDRESS IS ON PAGE 2.



# Hamfests Are A Bargain

By Richard R. Regent, K9GDF  
5003 South 26th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53221

Wisconsin Hamfests are a bargain, even though we're in a terrible economic recession. Sometimes vendors or visitors get free admission, rent a table for a few dollars, and need not worry about restrictions.

Hamfests are convenient, too. Everything is already set up for vendors. Tables are covered with clean paper, maybe marked with computer generated calls or names. If there's an electrical outlet nearby, the vendor can use it if no one complains. If the weather and mood are right, go enjoy a Hamfest.

Another matter is the Art and Craft shows, which will be back in full swing this spring. To compare, let's check the rules of a popular Milwaukee craft fair.

First is the "media restriction". Vendors can only sell what the Craft Advisory Committee will permit. In fact, new vendors must submit several photographs or slides of their setup just in hopes of qualifying. The minimum age of 18 is required for a vendor. The entry fee is returned to rejected vendors. Accepted vendors who can't attend, for reasons such as if they got sick (which apparently is also not permitted), are stuck with a loss. The invitation is not transferable and the fee is not refundable.

Now to the serious matter of fees. One Craft Fair has a registration and entry fee of \$165 to \$180 for a two day event, which includes reservation of a 10 foot by 10 foot space and admission. To fairly compare this to a one day Hamfest, let's divide this entry fee by two. That's \$82.50 to \$90, about a dollar per square foot per day.

But there's more good news, no commission is charged. Perhaps the entrance fee exceeds what the Committee could collect from sales-based commissions, and there's no bickering involved. Each exhibitor is responsible for

collecting the 5% Wisconsin and 1/2% Milwaukee sales tax. The name address, social security number and Wisconsin sellers permit number is submitted by the Committee to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue following the show. Vendors apply with \$5 to the Department Operator/Vendor program in Madison to get their permit.

Pegboards for displays can be rented for \$25 each and must be inside the 10' x 10' space. They must be ordered at least one week prior to the show.

Chairs, tables, carts, lights, table coverings and props must be furnished by the exhibitor. Eight foot tables can be rented for \$20 each. Vendors must watch their tables closely as huge crowds either jostle the tables in their paths or make them lighter as they sneak by. Tables are to be covered to the floor on all sides, covers must be flame retardant. In fact, the recipe to do this is given in the rules: "1/2 cup Borax, 1/2 cup Boric Acid, mixed with 1 gallon of warm water. Submerge and soak thoroughly. Drip dry, do not iron". No ironing? What about the creases?

All boxes, bags, wrapping materials or other supplies must be out of sight. Import items are not permitted and food or candy may not be sold or distributed. All exhibitors are responsible for cleaning the exhibit spaces at the end of the day.

The use of any electrical outlet must be requested and paid for in advance, \$30 for up to 600 watts. All equipment and lighting must have grounded plugs.

There are many different Arts and Crafts shows, just like there are various fees and rules. Crafters trying to make money at Art and Craft shows, may find it cheaper than renting a store; it could be a bargain for them. Likewise, amateurs can enjoy their hobby at Hamfests for a reasonable price.

Next time you're getting ready to sell some ham gear, remember those craft vendors who have to submit photographs or slides for careful evaluation, hoping the Selection Committee will accept their honorable attempts to follow massive rules and regulations. Then be reminded of our good old Wisconsin Hamfests, the real bargains, especially at today's prices. □

## Space Shuttle Atlantis, SAREX Launched March 24; FCC Grants Waivers



As of Friday, March 20, 1992, the Federal Communications Commission has formally granted astronauts Kathy Sullivan, N5YYV, and Dirk Frimout, ON1AFD, scheduled to fly aboard shuttle mission STS-45, permission to operate Amateur Radio from space. The ARRL sought the rules waiver to allow Sullivan, who holds a Technician-class license, to participate in the week-long Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) mission. FCC rules require amateur stations in space to be controlled by at least one Extra Class operator, and there was not enough time to upgrade before the launch. Frimout, who will also operate the SAREX mission, was granted a U.S. reciprocal license on February 13, and holds a VHF-only license from his home country of Belgium. Frimout is in the rear in the photo at left, with astronaut David Leestma, N5WQC, STS-45 mission specialist, at the Johnson Space Center Amateur Radio Club station, W5RRR. The waivers granted by FCC follow those granted on January 21, 1992, which allow



Atlantis astronauts Leestma and Brian Duffy, N5WQW, also Technician-class licensees, permission to operate from space. Although SAREX is a secondary activity, the four ham astronauts say they'll try to be on the air as much as possible. The STS-45 crew is in the photo at right. They are, in front, Brian Duffy, N5WQW, pilot, and Charles F. Bolden, Jr., mission commander. In back are payload specialist Byron K. Lichtenberg, astronaut C. Michael Foale and David C. Leestma, N5WQC, mission specialists, astronaut Kathryn D. Sullivan, N5YYV, payload commander, and payload specialist Dirk Frimout, ON1AFD, of Belgium. A number of schools are scheduled for SAREX contacts, the nearest to Wisconsin is in Iowa. The astronauts will launch the Atmospheric Laboratory for Applications and Science (ATLAS) during their week-long mission.

- From ARRL Bulletin 6, 3/20/92, and NASA/Photos courtesy NASA

## WARC-92 Finds Room for New Services with Minimal Impact on Amateurs

The 1992 International Telecommunications Union (ITU) World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC-92) finished its work more or less on schedule, with delegates scrambling in the closing hours to find compromise solutions that each administration could live with.

The major decisions of WARC-92 are:

1. HF broadcasting expansion. An additional 790 kHz of spectrum, including 200 kHz below 10 MHz, was allocated to HF broadcasting. The conference also adopted a recommendation that a future conference "should consider the possibility of aligning the allocations to the amateur service around 7 MHz, with due regard to the requirements of other services." This would permit the issue to be addressed on its own merits, without the precondition of broadcasting expansion.

2. Mobile satellites, including low-earth-orbit satellites (LEOs). Coordination procedures were adopted for such networks. So-called "little

LEOs" (low-cost, low-rate data satellites operating below 1 GHz) gained a primary uplink allocation at 148-150.05 MHz with downlinks at 137 and 400.15 MHz, and secondary allocations at 312-315 and 387-390 MHz. So-called "big LEOs" (such as Motorola's proposed Iridium system of 37 satellites

which are intended to provide voice-grade service to hand-held equipment) gained access to the spectrum they were seeking near 1.6 and 2.5 GHz, but subject to limitations and procedures designed to protect global navigation systems with which they will share spectrum. Other mobile-satellite allocations near 1.6 and 2.0 GHz also were expanded.

A U.S. proposal for a mobile-satellite uplink band at 2390-2430 MHz was not adopted.

3. Aeronautical public correspondence. Two

Please turn to page 10



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## The Overallocated and Unused VHF/UHF Bands

Guest Editorial by  
Mark Thompson, WB9QZB  
P.O. Box 357  
Mount Prospect, IL 60056

Since I originally wrote this editorial in the fall of 1990, both the IRA (Illinois Repeater Association) and WAR (Wisconsin Association of Repeaters) are taking measures to address this problem.

About a year and a half ago, I bought a fancy dual-band (2 meters and 440 MHz) Kenwood TM-701 mobile rig. One of its more interesting features is the band scan capability. I programmed the 2 meter and 440 MHz scan ranges to cover the ranges of the repeater outputs. I then started doing band scanning while I drove around the Chicago metro area. What I discovered was quite intriguing.

For years I've heard in this area that you can't use the 440 band for anything like packet, etc., because it's all been allocated to repeaters and their links. And if you look at the repeater handbook, and

check with the IRA, that seems to be correct.

The question is, though, whether the band is really being used, and that's where I think we'll find a discrepancy.

In my travels around the Chicago area during rush hour drive-time, I expected to find all those 440 repeaters brimming with activity. But, I've been lucky to hear 3 repeaters in use at any one time and normally only two. During non-drive time you'll be lucky to hear any repeaters being used. If you don't believe me set your rig or scanner to scan the band and observe for yourself.

The next question is how can this be?? Quite simple, the band is entirely ALLOCATED, but no one has really determined whether the frequencies are really being used. You say, well doesn't the IRA investigate whether frequencies are being used?? Not that I've seen, and if they did, we wouldn't have the current situation.

So, what can be done to correct this situation??

1) Determine whether the repeaters really exist. If it can't be keyed up over a period of time, with the correct PL, there's a good chance it doesn't exist and

the owner should be contacted to discuss decoordination. The IRA could enforce this effort with a group of OO (Official Observers) that would monitor repeaters for inactivity.

2) All repeaters operators should provide the IRA (Illinois Repeater Association) with usage statistics of how much their repeaters are used on a daily basis. If it's not being used, then there is probably a group who could put the frequency to more productive use. The OOs will verify these statistics.

3) Determine how many active members an organization has. Many of the repeaters out there are 1 - 5 user machines, stroking someone's vanity rather than providing a useful service. If one person has built the machine, it will likely be a one user machine.

Just because an individual or group has gotten a frequency allocated doesn't necessarily mean that they should have it into perpetuity. If the frequency isn't being effectively utilized, then it should be given to someone who will use it. The frequencies that are de-coordinated could be used for groups who really want to use those frequencies, such as putting up an active voice repeater or a full-duplex packet

repeater or high-speed packet back-bone links.

In fact, some of the same 440 problems occur on 2 meters also, and the same mechanisms could be put in place to verify actual usage by repeaters there also.

Having lost 40% of the 220 MHz-225 MHz band, it's time we stopped the squandering of much of the 440 MHz band on inactivity.

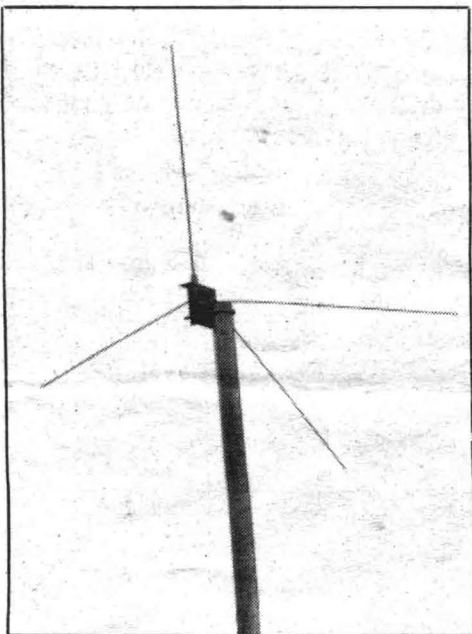
I encourage everyone both to write to the IRA and attend the next IRA meeting and discuss these issues. Remember, when the FCC comes looking for more frequency spectrum for commercial interests, all they'll have to do is monitor our VHF/UHF bands to see that we're not using them effectively. Allocating our VHF/UHF bands to little-used or non-existent repeaters won't save our bands. More hams and more activity will.

If you want to hear the RAIN DialUp Service, including my editorials, you can call (708) 299-INFO. The RAIN Dial-Up is updated weekly. See you next month.

73, Mark, WB9QZB

Packet Address - WB9QZB @ WB9-YAE.IL.USA.NA □

## New Products



**MFJ-1740 1/4-Wave Ground Plane Antenna for 144, 220 and 440 MHz**

MFJ Enterprises, Inc. announces the new MFJ-1740 1/4-Wave Ground Plane for 144, 220, 440 MHz.

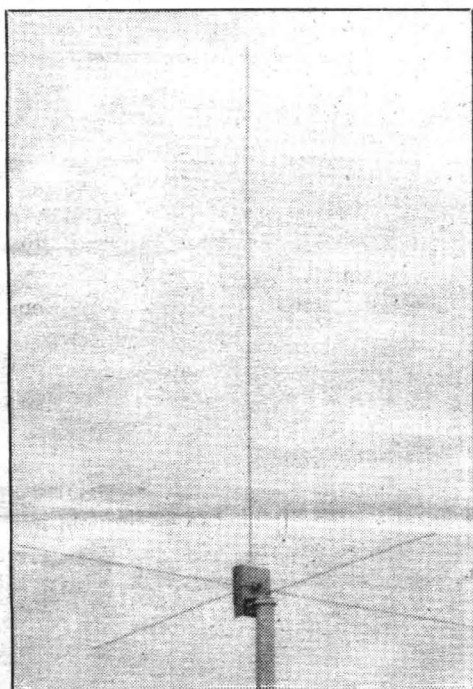
Adding a new antenna to your existing VHF or UHF transceiver or including it in the purchase of a new rig is a terrific idea, and the new MFJ-1740 fills that bill perfectly! Its improved design gives superb impedance matching and maximum bandwidth with lowest SWR. Easily covers the full 2-meter band with less than 2:1 SWR. Its radials are raised from the regular 45 degrees to 28 degrees to reduce inductive coupling, then the radiator is lengthened to move the feedpoint from the voltage node so capacitive coupling cancels the remaining inductive coupling. This minimizes feedline radiation, gives more useful radiated power, reduces TVI, and cuts noise pickup on the coax shield.

The MFJ 1/4-wave ground plane is rated at 300 watts, can be fine-tuned to your favorite part of the band, has low-loss ceramic antenna insulator for maximum radiated power, and features MFJ permanent molecular bonding technology to protect the radiator. This antenna is so durable it may outlast you! Mounting hardware is included: a single U-bolt mounts it to any 1- to 1-1/2 inch mast.

It comes with MFJ's one full year unconditional warranty.

The MFJ-1740 is priced at \$12.95. Ordering information is at the end of this section.

- MFJ news release



**MFJ-1750 5/8-Wave 2-Meter Ground Plane Antenna**

MFJ Enterprises, Inc. announces the release of the new MFJ-1750 5/8-wave ground plane antenna for 2 meters.

This new 5/8-wave ground plane for 2 meters is an incredible bargain, indeed. It gives you maximum possible calculated gain of all single-element antennas. No other 5/8-wave antenna can work better: it only costs more!

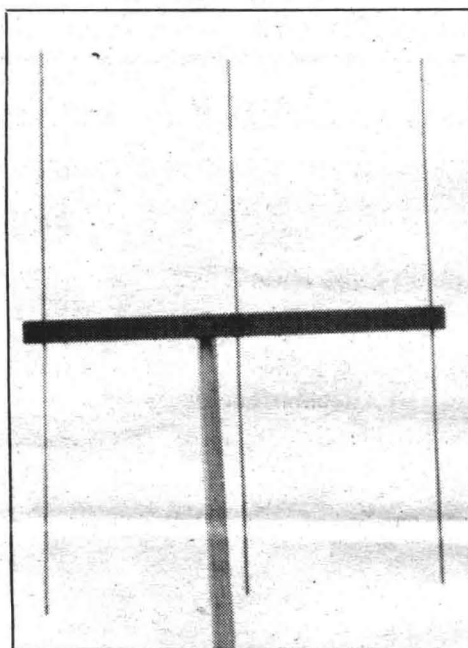
The MFJ-1750 features MFJ's "Rapid Tune Radiator™" with innovative spin-to-tune concept for quick and easy adjustment for lowest SWR. It handles 300 watts, and covers the entire 2-meter band with SWR below 1.5 over the full 4 MHz range. A shunt-fed matching network is included to ensure the lowest possible SWR and bleed off unwanted static charges. There is also a ceramic antenna insulator for lowest RF loss and maximum radiated power.

The MFJ-1750 is super easy to install on any one-inch or one and one-half inch mast with a single U-bolt (included). The antenna sports MFJ's permanent bonding technology™. This exclusive high-tech finish actually bonds itself to aluminum molecules. It will not come off unless the metal disintegrates! A terrific antenna, built to last.

It comes with MFJ's one full year unconditional guarantee, and is priced at \$19.95.

Ordering information is at the end of this section.

- MFJ news release



**MFJ-1763 Portable 3-Element 2-Meter Beam**

MFJ Enterprises, Inc. announces the unique MFJ-1763 portable 3-element beam.

Here is the perfect way to add new life to your existing 2-meter transceiver or enjoy your new 2-meter rig in top style. The new MFJ-1763 is a high-performance and portable beam for 2 meters. Its compact 2.75-foot boom gives you a calculated gain within 1 dB of a four-element Yagi to reach areas not possible with simple verticals. This beam's extra gain and directivity truly make the difference between noisy communications and solid copy.

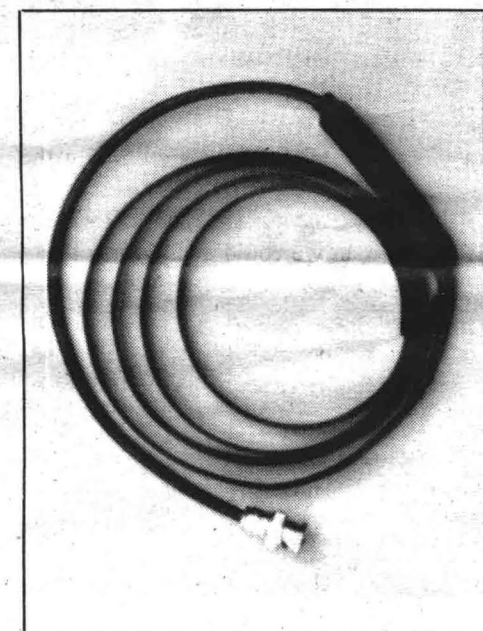
The MFJ-1763 utilizes threaded elements that simply screw into the boom. It is easy to store and transport, sturdy enough for fixed station use, and it can be set up or taken down in only seconds! The MFJ-1763 can be mounted vertically for use on FM or horizontally for SSB. It can also be mounted on the leg/side of a tower. It's great for packeting and packet cluster DXing.

The antenna has extra-thick elements to maintain high gain and directivity plus low SWR over the full 2-meter band. A ferrite choke balun gives excellent feedline decoupling. Coax coupling is further reduced by a rear-mounted SO-239 connector. Elements and boom are made from strong, lightweight aluminum that is protected by MFJ's permanent molecular bond technology. This exclusive coating is so tough that it won't come off unless the metal disintegrates! The boom is 30.5 X 1.75 X 1.25 inches. A U-bolt is included for

mounting. This antenna is a great way to expand your 2-meter enjoyment!

It comes with MFJ's one full year unconditional guarantee.

The MFJ-1763 Portable Two-Meter Beam is priced at \$39.95. Ordering information is at the end of this column.



**MFJ-1730 Pocket Roll-Up "J" 2-Meter Antenna**

MFJ Enterprises, Inc. announces the new MFJ-1730 Pocket Roll-Up "J" 2-Meter Antenna.

MFJ's new 1730 2-meter half-wave vertical J antenna is terrific for traveling, vacationing, and motel use when attending hamfests. You can roll up this half-wave 2-meter gain antenna, stick it in your pocket, and go! Using the MFJ-1730 is a cinch: just hang it in a convenient spot, plug the handy BNC connector into your handheld, and enjoy base station performance almost anywhere!

The MFJ-1730 Roll-Up antenna really adds big-time performance to your handheld. It is omni-directional, and does not need an awkward ground plane. It works indoors and outdoors. It works with all 2-meter hand-helds. It has good gain characteristics. It features the classic half-wave "J" design.

It comes with MFJ's one full year guarantee, and is priced at just \$14.95.

For more information about MFJ products, or to order, contact any MFJ dealer (see last page of every issue of this newspaper), or MFJ Enterprises, Inc., P.O. Box 494, Mississippi State, MS 39762, or call (601) 323-5869; FAX (601) 323-6551; TELEX (601) 323-6551, or order toll-free at (800) 647-1800.

- MFJ news release

Information and photos published in the New Products section of Badger State Smoke Signals is submitted

by the manufacturers, and is normally printed exactly as received.



# WATTS SNOO



WB9QFW 2-Meter Repeater 146.07-67 and Club Station

P. O. Box 847 • Plover, WI 54467

The meeting was called to order by our President, Art, N9BCA, at 19:30 hours local time. 23 members and guests were present, with the roll as follows:

N9BCA	Art Wysocki
KA9ACE	Jim Benak
KA9ACE	Mary Eiden
KE9MA	Gene Kroll
N9EIL	Debbie Kroll
WD9JID	Mike Eiden
KE9IA	Gordon Miller
N9CGV	Joe Omernik
KA9DJA	John Kalina
K9WVM	Al Mallek
N9IAT	Mike Smith
N9JQR	Frank B. Podach
KF9HQ	Russ Fritz
N9NOG	Joann Dix
KF9BG	Ray Dix Jr.
W9BCC	Frank L. Guth
KF9HP	Dean Holbrook
N9NVQ	Pam Holbrook
KA9TTU	Joe Mangal
KA9WEQ	Wendy Duesterhoeft
N9JQU	Dave Olson
K9DB	Paul Nelles

The first item on the agenda was Field Day, with Russ Fritz, KF9HQ, giving us an update on possible locations for sites. While the Mall could possibly be used, the Freedom Days activities in the area may result in more traffic and crowds in the area than normal and create more problems than we could deal with.

The alternate site, the Little Plover Park, seems much more feasible since our emphasis will be on making this Field Day a family event, and Russ will take care of securing that location as our site.

To promote participation, the Club will provide the basics (brats, soda, etc.) which will be procured by Al, K9WVM, and Mike, KA9LAQ, with the participants being asked to bring a dish to pass.

The need for a rotor (HD 73, Ham IV, etc.) for the portable tower was brought up to see if any progress had been made in obtaining one. Al, K9WVM, volunteered to rectify the situation, and the Club authorized him to spend up to \$150.

Mike, KA9LAQ, reported that the Swapfest flyers were at the printers, and we should have them in plenty of time to take to the Madison swapfest.

In the last WattSnoo, it was reported that we have two Equipment Managers, K9WVM and N9IAT. This co-position was created due to a misinterpretation of communications and has been corrected - we now have only one E.M., Al, K9WVM.

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc., has 45 scholarships available to licensed hams going on to full-time studies after high school in the '92-'93 school year. Contact Jim, KA9ACE, for information if interested.

Paul, K9DB, reminded us that the Wisconsin Special Olympics 1992 Summer Games will be held the first weekend of June in Stevens Point. Start to plan your time off for these Games, as this is a very rewarding experience and you get valuable radio communications training as well that may come in helpful in the future. Here is also a chance to put a special events station on the air - anyone interested??

Paul also mentioned that the Mosinee airport gives tours of its facilities as part of its P.R. program, and that this might be a good post-meeting program for our club. He will be looking into the situation, with the possibility of our July meeting being held at the airport. Stay tuned for further details.

The meeting was then adjourned at 20:15 hours local and, after a short break, Mary, KA9FAS, showed a video on severe weather that she recorded from the weather channel. It was a very informative and interesting program that will benefit all of those who do weather spotting or for personal information.

**LATE BREAKING NEWS:** Mike, N9IAT, our V.P., has gotten himself a job in Appleton and will be leaving the area. Congratulations, Mike, and best wishes for your new job. Of course, this means we will be looking for a new V.P. for the club - any volunteers??

73 de KA9ACE

## Computer

By Rich Regent, K9GDF  
5003 South 26th Street



## Tips

Milwaukee, WI 53221

**Q. Have you run across any unusual problems that computer newcomers encounter?**

A. Putting a 5-1/4 inch floppy disk into the computer the wrong way.

There are eight ways to insert the square, two-sided disk into a disk drive. The only right way (except for Apple computers that read both sides of the disk separately; there are two right ways) is to

hold the disk between your index finger and thumb, label side up.

Beginners rotate the disk 90 or 180 degrees without knowing the problem it creates. When the computer reports a disk error, it can't read the magnetic media through the disk cover.

Also, don't touch the disk media, since oil from fingers can create other problems. □

## HF Operators Needed for Special Event Station

Experienced HF operators are being sought to assist with a "very special" event station, planned for Independence Day, July 4, 1992, from 1700Z to 0500Z. The station will be operated from The Highground Veterans Memorial Park, located two and a half miles west of Neillsville, WI, in southern Clark County, just off U.S. Highway 10. The equipment and antennas will be located on the Central Plaza, which sits on a hilltop overlooking several hundred thousand acres of wooded, rolling hills.

Initial plans, if feasible, call for a total of three HF stations to be operating from the site. What will make this special event operation different from most is that extended QSOs will be encouraged to allow visitors to the memorial to have the opportunity to speak, if even briefly, with ham radio operators in other parts of the country, as well as other countries, thereby making their visit to the memorial an even more special experience, and serving as a way of expressing the oneness of all people around the world.

Rules and regulations governing third-party traffic will, of course, need to be observed.

Neillsville is located in a very rural area, with only limited local Amateur Radio resources from which to draw. Therefore, ham radio operators from throughout Wisconsin and adjacent areas are being given the opportunity to participate by means of this invitation. Not only will operators be needed for the day of the event, but also assistance will be needed in selecting the most appropriate antennas for the site, and with setup and takedown. There is also a possibility that sufficient operating equipment, antennas, and other hardware may not be available locally and will need to be brought in.

Due to the Central Plaza's open area and elevation above surrounding terrain, and based upon past experience, the use of tents to house the HF stations is not a viable option. Motor homes and/or trailers are being considered as alternatives. Amateur Radio clubs which have emergency communications trailers are especially encouraged to participate. It should be kept in mind that there may be a fair amount of traffic going through any trailers or motor homes used.

While this event does fall on a traditional family holiday, there are plenty of activities available in the immediate area to turn it into a family event and make a weekend of it. These activities include fishing, swimming, boating, water skiing, and others. For those who enjoy camping, some facilities are available at the Memorial Park. Other camping facilities are located at Snyder Dam, three miles from The Highground, Lake Arbutus (18 miles from the park), and at several other locations.

For those who don't care to camp, there is also a variety of lodging available, ranging from motels to bed and breakfast establishments.

If you, individually, or your club, would like to participate in some way in this special event station activity, please contact Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ, at P.O. Box 401, Abbotsford, WI 54405-0401, or call (715) 223-3996. An initial information packet will be mailed to you, including a brochure describing the Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Park (The Highground), and information on restaurants and lodging available in the area.

- Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ  
Abbotsford, Wisconsin

## Trucking Hams: a Growing Breed

By Dan Schobert, W9MFG  
805 Meadow Lane  
Plover, WI 54467

For many years, the phrase "Ten-four good buddy" was associated with truckers and CB radios. But as the limitations of eleven meter operation became known, along with the disgusting manner of many CB operators, an increasing number of truckers have moved ahead by getting their Amateur Radio license.

Though difficult to estimate, it would appear that today there are in excess of some 1,500 truckers (nationwide) who are licensed hams. Many drive local delivery units, while others drive from coast to coast. As a group, these individuals probably are no larger than any other employment group. There are probably as many hams who are teachers, salesmen, engineers, housewives, etc. What makes the truckers a little different is that they tend to be a little more visual...because they can operate while they work, whereas most folks do their operating to/from work, or in otherwise free time. As a result of their work, truckers are on the air a great deal.

Many truck drivers started out with a Tech license, and began with a VHF or UHF unit in the truck. Some are still at that level. Others have moved to higher grades, and many now possess Extra Class tickets.

As they upgraded, so did their truck installations. Many have moved into HF operations. These brought additional concerns about antennas. Drivers have used several approaches to the problem. Many use single antennas for each band to be worked. This means a truck which looks like a porcupine! Others have opted for a multiband stick. These have included the various "bug catcher" types: large open air coil, etc., and the rather new "Outbacker" from Australia.

Trucking hams can be found on many frequencies. Several popular places include: 14.303 MHz most of the day/evening, and also 3.992.5 MHz every night at 0000Z. Some operate CW and even a few have packet installations.

While these drivers may not have all the answers to mobile operations, they do have a lot to share. Stop by sometime and chat. □

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# Mancorad Radio Club

Lou Maylander, KA9ZQF, Secretary

P.O. Box 204 • Manitowoc, WI 54221-0204

## General Meeting February 12, 1992

1. TREASURER'S REPORT: Accepted as read.

2. MINUTES: Minutes of the January 8th meeting accepted as read.

3. CAR FERRY SPECIAL EVENT: President John (WB9ESM) reports that there is no new information on this event.

4. ARRL PUBLICATIONS DONATED TO LIBRARIES: Secretary read a letter from the Joseph Mann Library in Two Rivers, thanking us for the donations of the ARRL publications. A photo of President John (WB9ESM) and Treasurer George (N9BCX) appeared in the *Chronicle* (a local newspaper).

The donation to the Manitowoc Library is still in the making due to the vacation of their Public Relations staff person.

Discussion ensued regarding the correct use of the club's copies. Mike (AA9A) asked if the books have to stay in the club room. Vice-President Chuck (N9KGL) suggested the use of a signout sheet, the same as for club equipment. Board Member Bob (N9LVU) reported that stickers or stamps be used on the inside leaf to denote ownership by the club. Board Member Bob reported that we need more W9DK stickers to use on the books.

5. FLY-IN SPECIAL EVENT: Treasurer George (N9BCX) reported that the president of the fly-in has written to us requesting our assistance for ground communications and crowd control during the event. Reportedly, the members of the fly-in are meeting tonight, at this time, to discuss their plans for the fly-in in general. The particulars of our involvement isn't known as yet. Reportedly, there is still interest in a continuous airborne station during the event.

6. NOVICE AND UPGRADE CLASSES: Reportedly, there are 18 in the Novice class, taught by Board Member Ron (WS9X), Board Member Whitey (WW9P), and John (NZ9Z). Reportedly, there are three persons taking an upgrade test to become a Tech. This class is being taught by Clancy (KB9ECW) and Howard (KE9YD). Mike (AA9A) asked how many are taking code. Apparently, these are the majority of the students of the Novice class.

7. CHRISTMAS PARTY: It was well attended, with 43 persons present.

8. BATTERY CHARGER: A new deep cycle charger was purchased and donated to the club by the author. The charger reportedly has a five year warranty.

## New Business

1. SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT: President John (WB9ESM) reported that the Lakeshore Emergency Support Group had requested a speaker at their next meeting on February 28 to discuss Ham Radio in emergency communication situations.

2. OLD EQUIPMENT: Howard (KE9YD) suggested that the old equipment of the club be sold at the Hamfest at a Club table. Since there was no bid on the sections of tower, this will be included in the sale.

3. DIGIPEATER: The Board made a motion that the old digipeater from the Red Cross be placed on Clancy's (KB9ECW) tower. Discussion centered on the need for an appropriate 2-meter trans-

ceiver. John (NZ9Z) questioned the need. Reportedly, some are having trouble getting into "Red's" repeater, and the digipeater has the capability to do conference packeting. Motion made by President John (WB9ESM) and seconded by Treasurer George (N9BCX). Opposed, John (NZ9Z).

4. WISCONSIN QSO PARTY: Secretary Lou (KA9ZQF) asked permission to use W9DK during the Wisconsin QSO Party, and that \$25.00 be allocated toward gas money. (Three club members, President John (WB9ESM), John (NZ9Z), and Lou (KA9ZQF) won last year's multi-operator class with 24,118 points.) Howard (KE9YD) questioned if this is setting a precedent for future contestants to ask for donations. Author reminded him that I asked for an amount that could have been given by the Board without general membership approval. Motion passed and seconded.

5. R.A.C.E.S. MEETING: Howard (KE9YD) holds a RACES meeting after the general membership meeting. Old information regarding the members' capabilities is updated, and basic information regarding an upcoming drill is discussed.

6. MINUTES: Howard (KE9YD) questioned the use of "respectfully submitted" after the minutes are printed in *Smoke Signals* prior to the general membership's approval. Author will use "submitted for approval" as a closing statement henceforward.

Submitted for approval:  
Lou Maylander, KA9ZQF  
Secretary, Mancorad

## General Meeting March 12, 1992

### Old Business

1. TREASURER'S REPORT: Accepted as stated.

2. MINUTES: Secretary Lou (KA9ZQF) apologized for missing the February deadline for our minutes to be printed in the *Smoke Signals*. Membership told that both February's and March's minutes will appear in the next issue.

3. CAR FERRY SPECIAL EVENT: President John (WB9ESM) reported that ads were placed in the "Special Events" sections of *QST*, *73*, *CQ*, and *Worldradio*. No further word has been forthcoming from the mayor's office regarding the event.

4. ARRL PUBLICATIONS DONATED TO LIBRARIES: President John (WB9ESM) reports that a picture was taken of him making the donation of the ARRL books to the Manitowoc Library. Reportedly, this will be sent to the *Herald Times* to print the picture. Treasurer George (N9BCX) reports that the picture taken by the *Chronicle* (a local weekly paper) donating the books to the Two Rivers Library was sent to *Smoke Signals*.

Steve (KB9GPN) read a letter of appreciation from the Manitowoc Public Library, and showed the group the dedication printed on the inside jacket of each book. The donation was given in the name of John Christianson, a Silent Key from the club. Steve (KB9GPN) was given a round of applause for his work on this project.

5. MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Board member Bob (N9LVU) has purchased 1000 new membership cards at a cost of \$31. Reportedly, these have the ARRL logo and raised lettering.

6. EQUIPMENT SIGN-OUT SHEETS: Board member Bob (N9LVU) and Vice-President Chuck (N9KGL) are requesting that all borrowed club equipment be returned and inventoried via use of the above-mentioned sheets/forms. Once the form is filled out, the article can return to your residence for usage.

7. REPEATER: President John (WB9ESM) reported that the unit is working well, due to new tubes. Discussion regarding possibility of purchasing solid-state material. Board member Bob (N9LVU) agreed to obtain a listing of material with the prices.

8. LOCAL EAA FLY-IN SPECIAL EVENT: Reportedly, Vice-President Chuck (N9KGL) and other board members will be meeting on Sunday, 3-22-92, with the organizers of the local chapter of the EAA to discuss specifics of our involvement in the event.

9. SPEECH: President John (WB9ESM) and Secretary Lou (KA9ZQF) gave a speech to the Cleveland Disaster Support Group regarding emergency communications and Hams. The speech was warmly received, and a donation of \$25 was given to the club. There was also a request that the Club's Emergency Vehicle be brought to one of the group's meetings for a live demonstration.

10. CLASSES: Howard (KE9YD) and Whitey (WW9P) are continuing to teach classes. There is some report that those who were initially interested in code are fading out.

11. DIGIPEATER: Carl (KA9ZTF) asked the status of the digipeater. Clancy (KB9ECW) reported that an antenna still needs to be erected at his site. Questions arose as to frequency and it is recommended that we use 145.03.

12. HAMFEST: Tickets have been printed and were purchased. Ron (WS9X) passed around a signup sheet for duties. Lou (KA9ZQF) will check with Expo as to time for setup. President John (WB9ESM) reminded everyone on the upcoming Madison Swapfest, and plans were discussed to inquire as to the purchase of a table to sell tickets. Also, members will be

needed to put up posters. Lou (KA9ZQF) will obtain the necessary licenses, and begin food and beverage purchases.

## New Business

1. LIBRARY: The Manitowoc Public Library was asked to have *QST* repurchased for the year. Reportedly, they had stopped the subscription due to a lack of interest, and now will repurchase only if the subscription is paid for. There were questions regarding the rate for libraries, and Whitey (WW9P) will investigate this, while George (N9BCX) will donate his issue as soon as read.

2. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS VEHICLE: President John (WB9ESM) reported that Representative Vern Holschbach was contacted regarding a reduction in the purchase of license plates. One suggestion was the purchase of a collector's plate. This would include the purchase of a plate at twice the present rate; however, there would be no yearly renewal. Several questions arose as to limitations of use under a "collector's" plate. Bob (N9LVU) will contact the DOT in regard to the questions.

3. POSSIBLE CLUB PURCHASE: Bob (N9LVU) reported that he has a lead on 400 feet of 7/8 inch cellwave hardline at a very low price, and wondered if the club would be interested. There was no action to purchase made, and the suggestion died.

4. FIELD DAY: Bob (N9LVU) will secure the site at Red Arrow Park via contacting the Recreation Department.

5. REMINDER: Carl (KA9ZTF) reminded those present of correct protocol and that others are scanning our frequencies, so please don't advertise long absences or you may not have a rig to come home to.

6. R.A.C.E.S. MEETING: Howard (KE9YD) reported on the upcoming drill and the need for volunteers.

Submitted for approval:  
Lou Maylander, KA9ZQF  
Secretary, Mancorad

## WARC-92 Report

Continued from page 7

separate systems were sanctioned, one using bands near 1.67 and 1.8 GHz and a North American system which is already in operation using bands near 849 and 894 MHz. If the two separate systems are implemented, aircraft flying between North America and other continents will have to carry equipment for both in order for passengers to have the service.

4. Satellite sound broadcasting (and a complimentary terrestrial service). A worldwide band was established at 1452-1492 MHz for digital sound broadcasting, but a number of countries, including the U.S., do not plan to implement the service in this band and are looking at 2310-2360 or 2535-2655 MHz instead. (Amateurs in the U.S. already are excluded from 2310-2390 MHz in order to protect aeronautical flight test telemetry from interference.)

5. High-definition television. No worldwide band could be found for this service. In regions 1 and 3, 21.4-22 GHz will be made available; in Region 2, the band will be 17.3-17.8 GHz.

6. Future public land mobile telecommunications systems (FPLMTS). Bands

near 2 GHz were identified for future implementation of FPLMTS but were not actually allocated for this purpose, since an allocation was regarded as premature for a system which is still largely undefined.

7. Other mobile services in region 1. In Region 1, the Mobile Service was upgraded from secondary to primary in a broad range from 1.7 to 2.45 GHz, including 2.3-2.45 GHz. (Mobile is already primary in the latter band in Regions 2 and 3.) Depending upon how administrations in Region 1 decide to implement new mobile services in this range, there could be implications for the continued use of the band by their amateurs.

More than 1,400 delegates representing 127 countries attended WARC-92. The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), as the recognized representative body for the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite services, was among 31 international and regional organizations invited to participate as observers.

The Final Acts of WARC-92 enter into force on 12 October 1993. However, a number of provisions adopted by the conference have much later effective dates, e.g., 1 April 2007 for the new HF broadcasting allocations.

- The ARRL Letter, March 11, 1992

## Going to the Madison Swapfest April 5?

• Be sure to stop by and visit your hale and hearty *Badger State Smoke Signals* staff! We'll be just across from Section Manager Rich Regent's ARRL display. We'll be happy to visit with you. Careful.... we'll probably have our trusty camera along with us!

• The ever-alert BSSS staff has learned that Amateur Electronic Supply will be at the swapfest for the first time. We have also been advised by a reliable source that a representative from Icom America will be there, too.

- K9ZZ



## Riverland Amateur Radio Club



Dick Low, K0JYB,  
Secretary

Club mail address: P.O. Box 621  
Onalaska, WI 54650



## Meeting Minutes March 3, 1992

The March meeting of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club was called to order by President Walt, AA9AW, at 7:08 p.m. The minutes of the last meeting were read by Secretary Dick, K0JYB, and approved as read. The treasurer's report was given by Duane, W9HWQ, and accepted as presented.

## Old Business

President Walt informed us that three tapes of *Hams In Space* have been distributed, one going to Winona and the other two went to West Salem. Other tapes are to be given to schools in La Crosse, La Crescent, MN, Holmen, Onalaska, and Trempealeau. Bob, N0PDD, also copied *Hams In Space*, and has distributed tapes in the Winona area.

Bill, KE9XQ, our Field Day chairman, was unable to attend the meeting, but would like to have everyone turn in the questionnaires for suggestions on Field Day activities.

## New Business

Van, WA9FIO, turned in forms from the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters. Each year, we are required to re-register the repeater and pay an annual \$25 fee.

Scott, KA9FOX, made a motion to purchase one hundred blank certificates for the sum of \$25. The certificates can be filled in with a laser printer and used for a variety of things, including a certificate of completion for our Ham Radio course. The motion was seconded by Dean, KQ0C. Motion carried.

Bob, N0PDD, being a member of the RARC and also the Winona club announced that the Winona club will be sponsoring the second annual RARC-WARC picnic, to be held again at Perrot State Park in August, 1992. Feroz will help coordinate the activity for our club.

Program Chairman Feroz, WU9N, has Bill, KE9XQ, on the slate in April for a presentation on spread spectrum for our ten minute talk, and the main topic will be D-F-ing by Bruce, K9CUT. In May, we will see a video of the Gulf War, presented by Don, KS9F, who was in Iraq with the U.S. Embassy during the War. Don will also be giving a talk on AMSAT during the April 11th Packet conference.

The August program will consist of a building phone line filters. Feroz moved that we buy materials such as FT-50-75 toroids and wire, the cost being \$30. The motion was seconded by Kent, W9LZQ. Dean, KQ0C, suggested that any extra filters be donated to the club for TVI use.

There will be an auction of Les Jenks' (W9AKY) estate on April 8, 1992, including his Amateur Radio Gear. The auction will be held at 10 a.m. at W7411 CTH 2, Onalaska-Brice Prairie.

John Young's (W9KAZ) estate also has many Ham Radio items for sale. Contact Bruce, K9CUT, or Dick, K0JYB, for information.

Kent, W9LZQ, made a motion that we rent a post-office box in Onalaska for RARC at \$17 for 6 months or \$34 per year. The motion was seconded by Feroz. Motion carried.

Kent has been sending tape recordings of the meetings to handicapped people. Two tapes are now being distrib-

uted. Kent moved that he be reimbursed for tape and mailing expenses. Dick, K0KTP, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Kent also announced that SkyWarn training will be offered at the La Crosse Post Office on Saturday, March 21, 1992 at 9 a.m. The use of tactical call signs will be introduced, as well as Packet Radio and formalized reporting. A new video tape will be shown.

It was brought to our attention by Rick, KV9U, that we have a pirate on the 146.97 repeater. The best policy is to ignore the person and do not bait him on. It should be possible to find him with DF-ing equipment.

The 45 minute meeting deadline was reached, and extended time was voted

down, although Van gave a very nice presentation on the use of the Smith Chart, which was to be part of the meeting plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by Dick, K0JYB

Our speaker for the evening, Lyle Ostrander, was unable to attend. Kent, W9LZQ, was asked to fill in for Lyle. Kent stated that we had a fantastic involvement in club activities during the last year: The ham radio classes have twenty plus people in attendance, the joint picnic with Winona, buying and refurbishing the trailer for our use, Field Day, the Stockton flood activity, Amateur Radio weekend, the SET Exercise, and the public Demo with the trailer at Riverside Park.

Lots of good things, but where do we go from here? We could easily just stop! Where are we? We need to define a purpose and a direction for the club. What kind of activities do we want to be involved in? Kent divided us into four groups to discuss possible direction and activities for the club. Some good ideas were discussed and will certainly give us food for thought.

## Meeting Attendance

Walt Altus	AA9AW
Joe Mezera	WA9SOQ
John Jorenby	KA9ETH
Mike Warnock	WN9P
Bob Wilson	W9LZK
Art Ozborn	W0JDC
Brian McCarty	N9IWP
Kent Helman	W9LZQ
Karl Olberg	W4ST
Phil Uehling	W9UP
Judy Williams	N9LGV
George Kröner	KE9PL
Jim Brooker	N9DBK
Ken Eggen	WA0RBU
Roger Christinson	KA9FOX
Scott Neader	N9IV
Gary Webb	W9IEP
Charlie Briggs	W9BI
Jim Molledahl	K0KTP
Dick Kleppe	KQ0C
Dean Summers	WA9FIO
Van Elston	WA9HHM
Ray Wakeen	K9EGO
L.F. Bentzen	WA9OAE
R. Jahimiak	W9UN
Feroz Ghouse	W9HWQ
Duane Fruechte	KV9U
Rick Williams	KD9OY
Ron Reed	N0PDD
Bob Stark Sr.	

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MFJ-949D is the world's most popular 300 watt PEP tuner. It covers 1.8-30 MHz, gives you a new peak and average reading Cross-Needle SWR/Wattmeter, built-in dummy load, 6 position antenna switch and 4:1 balun -- in a compact 10 x 3 x 7 inch cabinet. Meter lamp uses 12 VDC or 110 VAC with MFJ-1312, \$12.95.

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\$2995  
Covers 2 Meters and 220 MHz. 30 or 300 Watt scales. Also reads relative field strength 1-170 MHz and SWR above 14 MHz. 4 1/2x2 1/4x3 in.

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MFJ-260B, \$28.95. VHF/HF. Air cooled, non-inductive 50 ohm resistor. SO-239 connector. Handles 300 Watts. Run full load for 30 seconds, derating curve to 5 minutes. SWR less than 1.3:1 to 30 MHz, 1.5:1 to 150 MHz. 2 1/2x2 1/2x7 in.  
MFJ-264, \$59.95. Versatile UHF/VHF/HF 1.5 KW load. Low SWR to 650 MHz, usable to 750 MHz. Run 100 watts for 10 minutes, 1500 watts for 10 seconds. SWR is 1.1:1 to 30 MHz, below 1.3:1 to 650 MHz. 3x3x7 inches. MFJ: "N" connector.

MFJ-260B \$28.95 MFJ-262 \$59.95 MFJ-264 \$59.95

## HF or VHF SWR Analyzer™

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## MFJ Speaker Mics

MFJ's compact Speaker/Mics let you carry your HT on your belt and never have to remove it to monitor calls or talk. You get a wide range speaker and first-rate electret mic element for superb audio on both transmit and receive. Earphone jack, handy lapel/pocket clip, PTT. MFJ-285 fits ICOM, Yaesu, Alinco. MFJ-286 fits Kenwood. MINIATURE SPEAKER MICS: 2" x 1 1/4" x 1/4". MFJ-285 and MFJ-285L (with "L" connector) fit Icom, Yaesu or Alinco; MFJ-287 or MFJ-287L fit Kenwood; MFJ-283: Split jack Alinco. All features of compact models. One year guarantee.

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Use computer to transmit/receive in all 9 digital modes: Packet, AMTOR, ASCII, CW, RTTY, FAX, SSTV, Contest Memory Keyer and Navtex receive. Easy-Mail™ Personal Mailbox. Built-in printer port, 20 LED tuning indicator, AC power supply, Host/KISS, 32K RAM, Multi-gray level FAX/SSTV modem, CW key paddle, jack and tone more. Options include 2400 baud modem (MFJ-2400, \$79.95) and software starter packs with computer cables, \$24.95 each, for IBM compatible, Commodore 64/128, Macintosh and VIC-20.

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## Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club

Don Franzmann, W9NFJ, Secretary

2728 Marilyn Drive • Eau Claire, WI 54701

### Meeting Minutes March 10, 1992

The meeting was deferred because of time constraints in order to give as much time as possible to the program.

The club's program chairman, Burt, W9ZZI, introduced Marlin Hostvedt, WJ9Y, from Emerald, WI. The subject of the program was lasers and their use in industrial applications.

Marlin concentrated his discussion on carbon dioxide lasers. He showed examples of products that were manufactured with this process. They covered products from etchings on very fine materials to gears cut from one-half inch stainless

steel. He showed examples of very intricate products, and also gave us examples of the time it takes to manufacture some of the products, many of them in seconds.

Marlin did an excellent job with a very technical subject. He was received very well, and thanked for his traveling to us with this program.

The program for next month will be a very timely one. Bob Adams, KC0JJ, will cover the subject of SkyWarn, including tornado spotting.

The lunch committee for April is Al, N9ISN, and Ron, WA9PAM:

*Respectfully submitted:*  
Gordon Englund, N9ELN  
Acting Secretary

## Racine Megacycle Club

Arne Moxness, KA9ZPY, Secretary

3345 Newman Road • Racine, WI 53406

### Meeting Minutes March 9, 1992

The meeting was started at about 7:45 p.m. by Arne, KA9ZPY, since both the president (WD9FRH) and the treasurer (WB9ZIO) were absent.

The present balance is \$504.00

There was no old or new business.

All present gave their names and calls.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m. About 16 hams and five aspiring young hams were present.

Bill, K9IZV (sic), and Bob Jensen, W0WLN, had set up displays where the young hams could learn about radio. Bob had even etched some boards, which were then soldered with the components to make code oscillators.

*Respectfully submitted:*  
Arne, KA9ZPY, Secretary

## Calendar

Courtesy of Racine Megacycle Club

### April

Apr 12 Hamfest at Rockford  
Apr 13 Megacycle Club meeting  
Apr 28 Lakeshore Club meeting

### May

May 2 Testing at Red Cross  
May 2 Hamfest at Cedarburg  
May 4 Packet Club meeting  
May 9 Hamfest at Manitowoc  
May 11 Megacycle Club meeting  
May 17 Hamfest at Peotone

### June

Jun 6 Testing at Red Cross  
Jun 7 Hamfest at Princeton  
Jun 8 Megacycle Club meeting  
Jun 12 Air Show at Racine  
Jun 13 Lighthouse Run  
Jun 13 Air Show at Racine  
Jun 14 Air show at Racine  
Jun 14 Hamfest at Willow Springs  
Jun 27 Field Day  
Jun 28 Field Day

## Sheboygan County Amateur Radio Club

Kurt Diedring, WB9GLB, Secretary

1603 North 16th Street • Sheboygan, WI 53081

### Meeting Minutes March 10, 1992

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Ronald Brey, N9ITM. The minutes of the February 1992 meeting, read by Kurt, WB9GLB, were accepted as read, with the exception that the autopatch will be available for 911 calls only.

The Treasurer's report given by Brad, N9IXX; was approved as read.

Guests at our meeting were Mark, N9GFB; Steve, KB9HKG; Rod, KC9HT; and Mike, N9MYT.

2 m net operators were solicited for the coming month. Everybody is invited to check into the net every Monday at 7:00 p.m. on the Sheboygan Repeater frequency 147.06 MHz.

## Reports from Standing Committees

Lyle, WE9R, reported that the move of the repeater is completed. The repeater works very well in its new location.

Penny, KB9BJM, reported on the Wisconsin QSO Party. We had a good turnout, lots of food and strong participation. David, KB9GHE, one of our younger hams, was especially active. That we did not make contact with La Ron's, KB9CGO, "branch cutter" motor home, did not dampen the spirits.

## Old Business

On the pending insurance coverage, we are going to pick the company with the lowest base premium.

Our communication with Star Cablevision was discussed. We are working together with the cable company, and they emphasized that everything in their power will be done to straighten things out.

The Sweetheart Dinner on February 21 was a success. The Ham of the year award was given to Mike Filipiak, KO9Q, for his outstanding work, which produced 63 new novices during the last 5 years. Thanks, Mike!

## New Business

The repeater has been moved to NF9R's QTH. Since the club's antenna had a short, we used Al's Hustler, which is mounted about 50 feet high in a southeasterly direction. A weather alert tone, plus "WX" in Morse code, will be added to the ID in case of inclement weather approaching the area. A PL-Tone of 107.2 Hz is installed, and will be used if necessary.

Ron, N9ITM, reported on the upcoming American Diabetic Association BIKE RIDE PLUS on May 16th, 1992.

He is looking for 7 to 8 people to help out. Routes of 6, 14, 20.4 and 39 miles will be available. Activities start at 8:30 A.M. at Lakeview Park.

Ron also reported on the Kenwood KIDDS promotion, as suggested by Tom, AA9BJ, and has send for further information.

The foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc. will also be asked for information on college scholarship program funds.

Penny, KB9BJM, suggested to have the club station opened once or twice each month to give the new Novices and others a chance to operate. Time schedules will be announced.

For the April 14 meeting, we will have a weather seminar. A representative of the National Weather Service will speak to us.

After the meeting was adjourned, Tom, AA9BJ, gave a talk and demonstration on the homemade pneumatic actuator he had built for the Wisconsin QSO Party. The snowmobile trailer was displayed in the parking lot. Tom, La Ron KB9CGO and Steve, KB9HKG operated mobile using the pneumatically actuated mast with a 10 meter 1/2 wave length ground plane antenna mounted on the top. The ground plane was at a final height of about 40 feet off the ground. The mast was made from two 10 foot telescoping sections on PVC plastic conduit tubing. A snowmobile trailer served as a platform for the pneumatic antenna, and was pulled by KB9CGO's "branch cutter" motor home. The mobile station contained 13 various antennas operating on the 70 cm, 2 meter, 10 meter, 20 meter and 40 meter bands. Serving as logger for this "fun time" event were novices-to-be Pat "Sug" Dell, Eric "Navey" Johnson and Ian "Brew" Smejkal. Thomas Industries Power Air Division in Sheboygan provided the air compressor and vacuum pump.

Kurt Diedring, WB9GLB, Secretary

## Northern Wisconsin Radio Club

- Since 1923 -

Steve Hart, KA9OMC, Secretary

Route 1, Box 54 • Knapp, WI 54749

Greetings, NWRC members and guests.

The last meeting of NWRC was the annual club auction February 25, held at the American Legion Post on Water Street in Eau Claire. Attendance was 64, and a good selection of A to Z in electronics was sold with enough to fill about a dozen tables. Yours truly forgot the club roster, and found it at home where I left it.

Col. Bruce Walther, W9QAH, did a great job entertaining and auctioneering. Bruce even tried to drive the bidding higher by threatening to auction the donuts for \$20 each. President Ken, KE9CS, was busy helping display and sort items for Bruce. Bill, KA9GNG, arranged the setting up of the tables, and Viv, N9GOB, and Arlene, N9JBN, worked our lunch counter. Many thanks to all who donated work and items to make this another successful auction!

The following is an explanation of accounting surrounding the auction:

Total membership after auction	68
Subscriptions to BSSS thru NWRC	30
New memberships	6
Renewal memberships	18
Number of non-member general admission	19
BSSS renewals from auction	5
Auction proceeds after expenses	\$223.84
Auction ARRL memberships	1
ARRL membership	52%

Club balance at time of this writing: \$515.84

Recent purchasers of the *Who's Who in Ham Radio* books are as follows: W9-ZBY, KA5WCQ, KA9GNG, WU9R, N9GOB, KA9ZAJ, and W9QAH. To complete the book's dedication, the club has delivered copies to the families of Victor Hintzman, W9WDK, and Jerome Stewart, W2GFK. Copies are available through the club secretary at \$15 each. If you require shipping, add \$5.00.

The March 24 meeting at Menomonie will be a work session on the club constitution.

The April 28 meeting is the last spring meeting, and will be a tour of the WMEQ radio towers east of Menomonie.

**Directions from Eau Claire:** Take I-94 west to Highway 12 west. Take Highway 12 west six miles to Cedar View South. Go south three miles on Cedar View South. The towers are on your left.

**Directions from Menomonie:** Take Highway 12 east 2.5 miles to Cedar View South. Go south three miles on Cedar View South. The towers are on your left.

To allow enough daylight, the tour has been scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

We will meet at the Peppermill Restaurant in the Thunderbird Mall in Menomonie at 7:30 p.m. if the weather is bad enough to not allow the tour.

Steve Hart, KA9OMC  
NWRC Secretary/Treasurer

Send news and photos to  
Badger State Smoke Signals!



## Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club

Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ, Secretary

Abbotsford, WI 54405-0401

### Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club Meeting Announcement

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9th at 7 p.m. in the Emergency Government meeting room/Red Cross office located in the basement of the sheriff's annex to the Taylor County Courthouse, corner of 2nd and Ogden Streets, Medford, WI. Talk-in on 147.75/147.15 repeater.

### Excerpts from Minutes of March 12, 1992 Taylor County Area ARC Meeting

Meeting was called to order by President N9GEN. Present were N9GHZ (Abbotsford), KB9BLV and WD9FWP (Dorchester), N9IDW (Lublin), KB9HCT (Withee), N9LIE and N9LHY (Sheldon), N9LIU (Holcombe), WD9ASX (Westboro), and KE9LX, N9GEN and W9QHI (Medford).

Minutes of last month's meeting were read by Secretary N9GHZ. Treasurer's report was given by Treasurer WD9FWP.

Discussion was held on the status of pursuing non-profit status for the club, the upcoming VE exam session to be held in Medford on April 11, and the status of the Explorer Post project.

Motion be KE9LX, seconded by KB9BLV, to approve reimbursement to N9GHZ for expenses incurred for postage and FAX transmission services. Motion carried.

N9GHZ read a thank-you card addressed to the club and recently received from WA9KMB, Medford, who had been hospitalized earlier at the Medford hospital due to a heart attack. A get-well card was sent to him from the club.

N9GHZ read a letter dated 2/26/92 from W9FPE, Willard, in which Ed indicated he would donate some black and white TV equipment to the club. After some discussion as to some possible uses for the camera, the membership directed the secretary to contact W9FPE to determine what conditions, if any, might be attached to his offer.

N9GHZ reported that he had submitted an article and photo of KB9HCT, who attended his Amateur Radio license course last year in Thorp, to the *Owen-Withee Enterprise*. The picture and caption, which included a phone number to call for those interested in getting an Amateur Radio license, appeared in the 3/5/92 issue of the newspaper. N9GHZ reported that since then he has received two phone calls from Owen-Withee area residents interested in the codeless Technician license. If enough interest is shown, a license exam preparation course may be held in that area starting some time in April.

Discussion was held on the proposed special event station for July 4th at the Highground near Neillsville.

Also discussed were Field Day, the recent severe weather spotter's training sessions held in Medford and Neillsville, and Tornado Awareness Week, which is coming up in April.

N9IDW indicated that he would be available again this year to help man the ham radio equipment located in the Taylor County Emergency Operations Center for the annual tornado drill, which is believed to be scheduled for April 9th. All area Amateur Radio operators are encouraged to try to check into the simulated severe weather net that will be held that day, probably some time between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on the 147.75/147.15 Medford repeater.

N9GHZ reported that he had not yet received a reply from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission in response to the club's letter to them dated 2/3/92, requesting that the club only be charged the residential rate for telephone service

provided to the club's repeater autopatch. It was suggested that the Citizens' Utility Board be contacted in regard to this matter. N9GHZ will follow up on this.

N9GHZ provided information on an organization called NARA, the National Amateur Radio Association, which some members had inquired about at a past meeting. Some sample newsletters were passed around for viewing.

N9GHZ mentioned an article concerning Amateur Radio that appeared in a recent issue of *Reader's Digest* magazine. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

### 1992 Club Membership and Repeater Dues are Now due and Payable!

1992 dues for membership in the Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club, and for support of the operation and maintenance of the club's 147.75/147.15 MHz Medford repeater are now due and payable! Dues are \$10.00 per year for both individual and family memberships. If you have not yet paid your dues, please bring them to a club meeting or send them to club treasurer Ernie Mehner, WD9FWP, Rte. 2, Box 122B, Dorchester, WI 54425. Make checks or money orders payable to Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club.

The following is the most recent list I have of those individuals who have paid for 1992: KA9SMQ, KA9UXN, KA9WDC, KA9WDX, KB9AMX, KB9AMZ, KB9BLV, KB9HCT, KE4FE, KE9LX, N9FZD, N9FZS, N9GEN, N9GHZ, N9IFA, N9LHY, N9LIE, N9MAC, N9MED, N9MEH, N9MEI, W9FPE, W9LEE, W9QHI, WB9YMD, WB9YME, WD9ASX, WD9C, and WD9FWP.

If you feel you have been left off this list in error, please contact the club treasurer at (715) 654-5425.

### Clark and Taylor County Area Amateur Radio News

By Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ  
P.O. Box 401  
Abbotsford, WI 54405-0401

### Clark and Taylor County Amateur Radio Emergency Service News

By Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ  
Clark/Taylor County  
ARES Emergency Coordinator

After several years of delays, the Clark County Office of Emergency Government in Neillsville is finally getting some 2-meter gear, as funds for the purchase just recently became available. An Icom IC-229H 50-watt 2-meter transceiver with 20 memory channels and an Astron RS-20A power supply have been ordered. A home-built J-pole type antenna was provided at an earlier date by KE9LX. The radio equipment will likely be located somewhere within the sheriff's department. The antenna and feedline will be installed by the same communications firm that does all the other 2-way radio work at the courthouse.

A thank-you note was received from the administration of the Continental Manor nursing home in Abbotsford regarding the Christmas parade project.

### 147.75/147.15 W9QHI/R Medford, WI Repeater

As mentioned in the minutes of the 2/13/92 Taylor County Area meeting, the membership approved the formation of a

## Hillsboro Balloon-Carried Amateur Radio Experiment Becomes Odyssey

The balloon-carried Amateur Radio (B.C.A.R.) package launch, scheduled for March 21, was delayed one day due to heavy snow on that day.

Joe Mayenschein, WB9SBD, and his hale and hearty launch crew and tracking stations did release the balloon and its ham radio repeater and beacons on Sunday, March 22.

What was to have been an approximately three-hour flight became instead a flight lasting about six hours, when the

balloon finally burst and the package parachuted safely to the ground in northeastern Illinois! The package was recovered safely.

We're sorry we don't have more information for this issue of *BSSS*; however, it is press time and we have to meet our printer's deadline.

Joe, WB9SBD, has told us we will have a full story for our May issue.

- Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ

repeater maintenance committee, consisting of N9LIE, N9GHZ, KE4FE, KB9BLV, and W9QHI. The primary responsibilities of the committee will be overall maintenance and upkeep of the existing repeater hardware, and researching and recommending and working on additional enhancements to the repeater. Some of the areas of concern that the committee will likely be addressing in the near future include, but are not limited to, the following: controller programming; access codes and security; development of written guidelines for use of the repeater and autopatch; and consideration of the addition of subaudible PL tone to the output (transmitter) of the repeater.

Anyone who has visited the repeater site within the past few years knows that the repeater hardware we currently have has outgrown the existing repeater cabinet. The duplexers are sitting on the floor of the tower shed, outside of the cabinet. Northcentral Technical College representatives have asked on several occasions if we could get those duplexers off the floor to clear up more floor space in the shed. Clearly, a new transmitter cabinet is needed. Unfortunately, due to the small size of the shed in which the repeater is located, we are limited by size to what will fit in the shed, based on what might be available in the way of used cabinets.

Clearly, the best route to take would appear to be to custom-build a new repeater cabinet that would allow us to take advantage of the absolute maximum dimensions that the cabinet can have.

In addition, custom-building the cabinet allows us to design in added features for things like ventilation, equipment security, and accessibility and cabinet portability that might not be available on an existing cabinet, and for which it might not be possible to modify.

In January, N9GHZ visited the repeater site to take some measurements. The dimensions of the current repeater cabinet are 44"H x 22"W x 18"D. The potential maximum dimensions for a new cabinet are 65"H x 29"W x 20"D. The duplexer alone is 35"H x 23"W x 16"D.

At the February, 1992 club meeting, WD9FWP donated a cabinet to the club, which the club may use for a new repeater cabinet, for some other purpose, or dispose of for profit as the membership sees fit. The maximum dimensions of that cabinet are 67.5"H x 24"W x 24"D.

Just prior to the 2/92 club meeting, N9GHZ, KB9BLV, and WD9FWP stopped at the repeater site and removed the battery used for emergency power on the repeater. The battery has a large amount of corrosion on it, and KB9BLV will clean it up and check it over to see if it is still working properly or if it will need to be replaced.

A reply has not yet been received to the letter dated 2/1/92 sent to KC9UC inquiring as to the possible availability of a used Motorola Radius transceiver or some other Motorola receiver with comparable specifications to the Radius.

Members are reminded that a trade-in unit will be needed if the club decides to go with the purchase of a new Radius transceiver.

Pledges as of 2/18/92 for the new repeater receiver project totalled \$370.00, with \$220.00 of that amount already collected. N9GHZ also provided some information at the 2/92 club meeting on the option of obtaining a commercial loan through the bank with which the club maintains its checking account. It was the consensus of the membership present that a loan should be used as a last resort

means of raising funds. N9GHZ also reported that he had submitted an application for a grant from the Abbotsford Story, Inc., a charitable foundation in Abbotsford, and would also be submitting an application to the AnnMarie Foundation in the very near future. The amount requested in the grant applications includes the cost of a new Motorola Radius, Micor preamplifier, Astron RM-50M 37-amp rack mount power supply, a deep-cycle battery, and metal for a new repeater cabinet. We would likely not receive the full amount requested, but rather a portion of the total.

For those who do not already know it, the beacon light located at the top of the Northcentral Technical College tower in Medford, on which the club's repeater antenna is located, is now working again.

### Miscellaneous Information

- Earl, WA9KMB, Medford, was admitted to Taylor County Memorial Hospital, Medford, on Friday, January 17, as a result of a heart attack. He was discharged on January 26 and, according to KE9LX, he is at home now and recuperating. A get-well card was sent to him from the club.

- N9GHZ recently received a postcard from Hub Perry, N9IAM. Hub has moved from Neillsville, WI to New York State. His new address and phone number are: 3021 Sing Sing Rd., Horseheads, NY 14845, telephone (607) 562-3219.

- Welcome to Don, WB9YME, and Mary, WB9YMD, of Thorp, Wis., who recently rejoined the Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club and renewed their dues. Glad to have you back aboard!

- Welcome to Richard Mindykowski, N9LIU, of Holcombe, who recently joined the Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club. Rich just recently got into Amateur Radio. Welcome aboard, Rich!

- N9IDW recently provided word that a Patrick Rose of Lublin is interested in getting into Amateur Radio. An Amateur Radio information packet was sent to him, including information on study guides and classes.

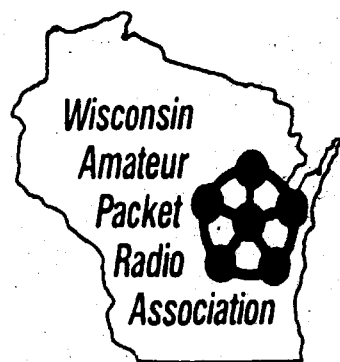
- Congratulations to Don Yeager, WD9ITI, and his XYL Dawn, who recently (February, 1992) celebrated their 11th wedding anniversary.

- Word was recently received that Nancy Hughes, KB9HCS, of Thorp, underwent surgery at St. Joseph's Hospital, Marshfield, in the latter part of February. Wishing you a speedy recovery, Nancy!

- If you're looking for some interesting reading, try an article entitled "Rescue by Radio," which starts on page 65 of the March, 1992 issue of *Reader's Digest*. It's the story of two ham radio operators, one in Connecticut and the other in Cambodia, and how the Cambodian ham was assisted in getting replacement ham radio gear and eventually assisted in getting out of the country altogether. The article represents an excellent public relations tool, and really puts Amateur Radio in a positive light

- Other recent news coverage of Amateur Radio appears in the "Good Morning" section of the 3/7/92 issue of *The Milwaukee Sentinel* in the form of two separate but related articles entitled "Loud and Clear - Relaxed License Boosts Number of Radio Hams" and "Communicating Without Dots and Dashes."





# THE WISCONSIN PACKETEER

Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association (WAPRA)

William Schroeder, W9ZBD  
4247 Forest Point Drive • Rhinelander, WI 54501

Steve Loeffler, WB9ZRE, Editor, 123 W. Oshkosh St., Ripon, WI 54971

## MIR News.....

Most of the strange content on the MIR Space Station recently printed in the British and American press such as "... a lone cosmonaut marooned in space ..." and "... arrangements are being made to land MIR in the USA ..." (!) are further examples of the current spate of highly irresponsible 'journalism', more intended to sell newspapers by artificially created sensationalism than intent to inform and educate with the truth.

Here is some real MIR news provided from source by Nico Janssen - PAODLO and myself on the next MIR mission, with more to follow later.

On 17 March at 1022 the SOYUZ should lift off to take the next pair of Soviet replacement cosmonauts plus a visiting German cosmonaut to MIR. They should dock at 1130 UTC on 19 March. They all have amateur radio callsigns, and the DL call is to be either DP1MIR or DP2MIR. They will use 145.550 MHz simplex FM speech and packet radio as usual, plus a connected onboard digital speech system acting as a 'repeater', which will listen for one minute and then replay the content back for one minute. DFOVR on 3.695 MHz at 1630 will be providing further detail and pass information.

Sergei U5MIR, Alex U4MIR and the visitor will return to earth around 25/26 March, and UA3CR is suggesting to RSF that for posterity they retain their callsigns for terrestrial use, rather in the way that Ernst Krenkel - UPOL2 did his.

As the STS-45 ATLANTIS mission manned (and womaned) by N5WQC, N5WQW, ON1AED and Kathy Sullivan (callsign awaited) is planned for 23 March to go into a 57 degree inclination orbit, numerous possibilities\* for space:space QSO's exist, in addition to schedules with schools including Harrogate Ladies College who were so successful when Helen Sharman operated GB1MIR from the space station.

Pat - G3IOR @ GB7VLS

## MIR Mission.....

February 25, 1992

This afternoon the next MIR team visited RK3KP to have training in packet Radio. Two German cosmonauts, Klaus-Dietrich Flade and Dr. Reinhold Ewald will start 17/03/92 and stay in orbit till 25/03/92. They will use one of possible calls DP1MIR or DP2MIR. Five cosmonauts will attend on the Space Station as one big family!

Sergej - RV3DR, Anatolij - U7MIR

## Hello .....

I'm looking for a few PacPals. I converse easily, I spell good, and I enjoy a few jokes here and there, although I don't tolerate Radio Shack putdowns, as I run my PACKET station on a HTX-202.

I'd better get into the beef. I'm 11 years old, I'm a LLBBS sysop, I'm in 6th grade in Altoona, Iowa, but I live in (or near) Des Moines, Iowa. I enjoy getting on Packet, and check my mailbox often.

So, if any of you out there need someone to chat with, I'm sitting here. ;)

73 de Ryan Tucker - NOPBS @ NOJQAQ.IA.USA.NA

## QRP Packet.....

For several years I found myself traveling extensively over an eight State area. During

this period I frequently ran packet both mobile and portable using a Kenwood TR-2600A H/T, Radio Shack M-100, and MFJ-1270. The radio will produce 3 watts full out. Using a coax connector (SO-239) 1/4 wave I was able to work effectively from my motel room, or apartment. Yes even in high traffic cities such as Chicago. Sometimes I did have to monitor for a strong local station and Digi,... So What! Those who wish to use high power will always find a rational for "needing it" but in truth a little power will do a lot. Using this same H/T and TNC from my car, with a through-the-glass antenna, I found it equally easy to run mobile (the difficult part was the driving). The M-100 likes 6 volts input, but a 7805 in a pill-box with .01mfd caps at the input and output and a diode between the reference terminal and ground resulted in a good 12 to 6 \*volt converter.

Lets see more QRP packet.  
N8KWK @ N08M.OH.USA.NA

## TCP/IP IM/Mac News.....

The next version of IM/Mac (1.0b11) will have a transliterate command. This will allow you to correctly display special characters received from and send to PC users. Most TCP/IP users have MS-DOS clones (or real ones). Character codes above 127 don't display correctly on our Macs unless they're 'translated' to the correct ASCII code for our system. The same is true in the other direction. Special characters typed on our Macs wrongly display on a PC. This 'Transliterate' command is implement by means of a resource that you easily can build yourself in case your language isn't provided by me. In fact transliteration depends on the computer you get the message from and also the language the message is composed in. I will provide, as a first step, transliteration for MS-DOS/Mac and vice versa for the following languages: U.S. English, Australian English, British English, Canadian French, Dutch, Flemisch, French, Swedish, Swiss French, Danish, Finnish, German, Swiss German, Italian, Norwegian and Spanish. Version 1.0b11 should be ready by March 21.

Ivo - ON1XK @ ON6AR.ANT.BE.EU [44.144.8.5]

## Check Your XR Board Tones.....

For those of you having intermittent problems making connections with your DigiCOM or Baycom boards - If you are using the XR type of board it is a very good idea to check the tone frequencies every once in a while. I have found that these boards seem to drift quite a bit over time. The best way to set them is with an accurate frequency counter. The tones can be found easily on the audio out pot. Simply get rid of the : and hit return to switch tones. If you lack a counter you can also set them by ear using the modem master program.

Rick - WD8BID @ NM3G

## K9NG vs HAPN .....

The G3RUH modem is a K9NG modulation type modem. The HAPN modem uses a completely different technique where the transmit data clock is exclusive or'ed with the data. K9NG modulation randomizes the data. The basic problem here is to make the data waveform have a constant DC average, so that when applied to an FM transmitter, the frequency of the signal is constant, thruout the packet. When this is accomplished, the demodulator can decide above what frequency is a 1 and below that frequency is a 0.

The main drawback of the HAPN technique is that it needs two signalings or bauds to send a single bit of data. Thus the HAPN modem is a 2 baud/bit modem. The K9NG techniques is a 1 baud/bit modem.

Note, the common QPSK technique used on phone lines is a 2 bit/baud technique. Thus for the same data rate, the HAPN modem needs twice the bandwidth. The capability of the K9NG technique to send constant DC average signals at one bit per baud, without any degradation in BER/Noise performance is the basic advantage the K9NG technique has over other FM radio modem techniques.

HAPN and K9NG (G3RUH, TAPR, MFJ, KANTRON-ICS, TEXNET) modems are incompatible.

Don - WB9MJN @ N9HSI.IL.USA.NA

## Modifying the TM-721/621 for 9600 .....

Modifying Kenwood TM-721 or TM-621 radios for use with 9600 baud K9NG or G3RUH packet modems is fairly simple. Look at your radio's schematic diagram. Modem receive data is taken from the discriminator output. Locate the 3.3K resistor coming from Pin 9 of the last IF stage. Connect a 1K resistor in series between the modem RX input to the junction of the .001 capacitor and the 3.3K resistor. Modem PTI is taken from Pin 2 of the microphone connector. Modem TX data is fed through a 1K series resistor to the top of VR3 (The deviation control). This has been tested and works quite well on 440 MHz and 220 MHz. NOTE: These modifications haven't been fully tested on the 2 meter portion of the radio.

The TM-731 radio design is just different enough to cause using this circuit. For proper operation, an addition to the circuit must be made with the addition of another RX Mute transistor. (Look at the schematic and see how the TX deviation is shorted to ground during receive). Use a plain npn and a pair of 10K resistors to copy the one used on VR3 on the schematic. Take the TX data and feed it to the collector through a series 1K resistor, and then feed that through another 1K resistor to the wiper of the deviation pot. This was a result of a Kenwood modification changing the deviation pot value from 10K to 100K. (It wasn't broke, but they fixed it anyways.) As with any modifications, take reasonable care, and I won't be responsible if you trash your radio. BE CAREFUL it is full of surface mount devices.

Schematics and layouts are available on request.

Jeff - WA6FWI @ WB6YMH.#SOCA.CA

## AMTOR and Packet can co-exist on 17 Meters

As amateurs learn there is more to HF than just 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters, the "WARC" and less-used bands will get their share of use. The 18.068 - 18.168 MHz band is no exception.

The "agreed on" bandplan for 17 meter packet is to use 18.099, 18.101, 18.103, and 18.105 MHz LSB, with 18.105 being a frequency for nodes, gateways and keyboards (NO BBS FORWARDING OR SERVERS on 18.105!).

Unfortunately, there is an increase of AMTOR QRM to the packet operations on 18.105 MHz. The problem arises from a difference in types of operation. Generally, AMTOR is a keyboard-to-keyboard or QSO mode. An AMTOR station may dial up "anywhere" on the VFO and start calling CQ. Packet HF stations are different. These stations stay fixed on a channel according to the bandplan. It especially hard for packet stations to QSY if they provide a service such as a BBS, gateway or multiport node that many



amateurs will use.

A popular BBS, node or gateway can not just simply "QSY a few" because an AMTOR operator did not monitor the channel first, or is not aware of the QRM they are causing. In a packet keyboard-to-keyboard QSO the operators can easily QSY if no nodes or digipeaters are involved.

What I suggest is that packet and AMTOR operators work more on lessening the QRM. Lets stick to the "Odd-numbered LSB" bandplan for packet. Perhaps AMTOR operators could do the same and try 18.107, 18.109, 18.111 and so on? Perhaps packet keyboard operators, finding a channel busy, could QSY downwards to other odd-numbered channels Maybe AMTOR users could QSY upwards. All operators should learn what their data signals and sidebands will do to adjacent channels.

I am not knocking AMTOR as a mode, or AMTOR operators. I "AMTOR" once in a while, too. I am also SYSOP of a packet gateway and node on 17 meters and feel bad when my users get "blown away" because someone did not monitor before transmitting.

While 17 meters is still a "new" band, now is the time to start in the right direction. Let's all stick to the bandplans and not QRM the folks across the tracks that use that different mode. If we start off right on 17 meters now, the band will not become another uncoordinated bedlam of off-channel packet, AMTOR and RITY stations.

The system of using LSB and odd-numbered channels for packet and data is a good one. It is used in varying degrees on the other HF data sub-bands. Let's stick to the plan.

Jay - WB6AAM @ K6VE.#SOCA.CA.USA.NA

WB6AAM-2 18.105 Mhz/144.91 Mhz Gateway

#### Packet Graphics For the IBM.....

The IBM and compatible computers have an extended character set that can be transmitted over packet if the right parameters in your TNC are set. The extended character set has ASCII values ranging from 127 to 255. You can display these characters on your screen by holding down the ALT key on your keyboard, and typing the ASCII value with the numeric keypad. When the ALT key is released, the character will appear. The extended character set includes continuous single and double line frames, Greek letters, mathematical symbols, and international characters. An ASCII chart can be found at the end of this article.

To send these characters through your TNC, the following parameters should be changed. Some of these changes are specific to the PC-Packratt terminal program and the PK-232. If your setup is different, changes to similar parameters should result in satisfactory operation.

8BITOONV "ON" - enables the transmission and reception of 8-bit data. This is the most important change, allowing these characters to be sent!!

AWLEN "8" - this sets the TNC to send and receive 8-bit data (as opposed to 7-bit) from your computer. Your terminal program must also be set to 8 bits. In order to send these characters with values of over 127 it requires 8 bits.

The following commands will keep the data that you receive formatted correctly (i.e. no double spacing).

ALFDISP "OFF" - this will prevent the TNC from inserting a line feed after every "received" carriage return.

ALFPAK "OFF" - this will prevent the TNC from inserting a line feed character with every "transmitted" carriage return.

ILFPAK "ON" - this tells the TNC to ignore all line feeds it receives from the computer. (ALFPAK "ON" overrides ILFPAK)

WRAP (Word Wrap) "OFF" - This will prevent a new line from being started if there is a space within the last ten characters of the current line.

The extended character set can be used to send higher-quality diagrams of antennas, circuits, or packet graphics of your call.

8 reverse linefeed

9 space

12 delete previous line

13 carriage return

# Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

Harry Westlund, K9EHJ, Secretary

K90DK  
WB9FDZ

720 Jefferson Street • Baraboo, WI 53913



The March 12, 1992 meeting of the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club, Inc. was called to order by the President, Art Kleefisch, W9WSS at 7:30 p.m.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved with one correction.

James Decker, WB9UQT gave the Treasurers report.

Duane Grotphorst, KA9HKL reported on the progress of the Novice/Tech classes. Students are progressing well and classes should conclude by the end of April.

Bill Klinkner, N9KXX, activities guru, suggested a family picnic in July or August and a Christmas party family style. Bill also asked if anyone wished to participate in the yearly scout jamboree at the Sauk County Fairground on the weekend of May 16. Nothing has been decided as yet, but in all probability we will be there. Next meeting on April 14 will feature HF equipment, DXing, contests, antennas. Bring your station and have bill check it out (if there is time).

With no new business, the meeting was promptly adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

After a short break, an interesting video and talk on the Wisconsin Civil Air Patrol was presented by Mike Kaufmen, WB9FLI of Richland Center. This was followed by a question and answer session.

The club extends very hearty "Thank You" to

Mike for a most interesting presentation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Westlund, K9EHJ, Secretary

NOTE: Sunday, April 5, 1992 is the annual MARA Swapmeet and Computer Fair at the Dane County Expo Center. Be sure to attend and meet some fellow hams. Check out the BSSS booth. Some YTARC members are usually there.

The following members and guests were present at the meeting:

Marvin Kaiser	Wisconsin Dells
Art Kleefisch, W9WSS	Baraboo
Duane Grotphorst, KA9HKL	Loganville
Harold Reif, KA9YQP	Baraboo
Rohbert Hemmer, N9LXX	Baraboo
Tom McCann, KB9HAB	Baraboo
Raymond Matlosz, N9MLZ	Reedsburg
John Baesemann	Portage
George G Gabay	New Lisbon
Jack Kirner, N9LKZ	Prairie du Sac
Anne Klinkner	Prairie du Sac
Mike Kaufmen, WB9SLI	Richland Center
Bill Klinkner, N9KXX	Prairie du Sac
Tom Thomson, N9LLF	Sauk City
Kevin L Perry, N9LME	Prairie du Sac
Jim Decker, WB9UQT	Baraboo
Harry Westlund, K9EHJ	Baraboo
Harry Mayland, K9FFT	Baraboo

128	3	161	!	3	194	B	3	227	c
129	3	162	"	3	195	C	3	228	d
130	3	163	#	3	196	D	3	229	e
131	3	164	\$	3	197	E	3	230	f
132	3	165	%	3	198	F	3	231	g
133	3	166	&	3	199	G	3	232	h
134	3	167	'	3	200	H	3	233	i
135	3	168	(	3	201	I	3	234	j
136	3	169	)	3	202	J	3	235	k
137	3	170	*	3	203	K	3	236	l
138	3	171	+	3	204	L	3	237	m
139	3	172	,	3	205	M	3	238	n
140	3	173	-	3	206	N	3	239	o
141	3	174	.	3	207	O	3	240	p
142	3	175	/	3	208	P	3	241	q
143	3	176	0	3	209	Q	3	242	r
144	3	177	1	3	210	R	3	243	s
145	3	178	2	3	211	S	3	244	t
146	3	179	3	3	212	T	3	245	u
147	3	180	4	3	213	U	3	246	v
148	3	181	5	3	214	V	3	247	w
149	3	182	6	3	215	W	3	248	x
150	3	183	7	3	216	X	3	249	y
151	3	184	8	3	217	Y	3	250	z
152	3	185	9	3	218	Z	3	251	{
153	3	186	:	3	219	[	3	252	
154	3	187	;	3	220	\	3	253	}
155	3	188	<	3	221	]	3	254	~
156	3	189	=	3	222	^	3	255	
157	3	190	>	3	223	_	3		
158	3	191	?	3	224	`	3		
159	3	192	@	3	225	a	3		
160	3	193	A	3	226	b	3		

Tim Czerwona - W09U

#### A Plan for the Improvement of English Spelling by Mark Twain

For example, in Year 1 that useless letter "c" would be dropped to be replaced either by "k" or "s", and likewise "x" would no longer be part of the alphabet. The only case in which "c" would be retained would be the "ch" formation, which will be dealt with later. Year 2 might reform "w" spelling, so that "which" and "one" would take the same konsonant, while Year 3 might well abolish "y" replasing it with "i" and Year 4 might fiks the "g/j" anomali wonse and for all.

Jenerally, then, the improvement would kontinue iear bai iear with Year 5 doing awai with useless double konsonants, and Iears 6-12 or so modifaing vowlz and the rimeining voist and unvoist konsonants. Bai Year 15 or sou, it wud fainali bi posibl tu meik ius ov thi ridandant letez "c", "y" and "x" — bai now jast a memori in the maindz ov ould doderez — tu riplais "ch", "sh", and "th" rispektivli.

Fainali, xen, aafte sam 20 iers ov orxo-grefkl riform, wi wud hev a lojkl, kohirnt speling in ius xrewawt xe Ingliy-spiking werld.

73, Danny (N2OQN @ W3YA.PA.USA.NOAM)

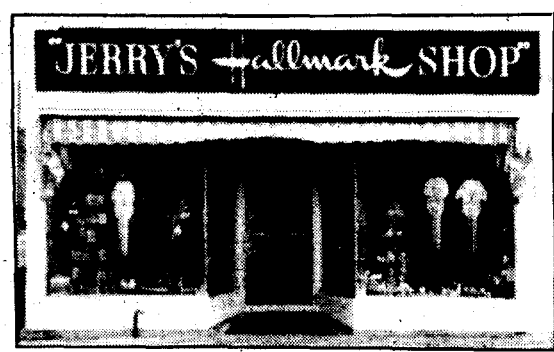
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# The Badger State Smoke Signals Shopper's Guide

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